Friday
27th March 1953

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

OFFICIAL REPORT

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THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part I—Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

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Friday, 27th March, 1953.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ACCOMMODATION TO DISPLACED PERSONS

*1023. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether accommodation has been provided in Delhi State to all displaced persons in houses—Evacuee houses or new constructions—or whether there is still a number residing on the *patris* and pavements in the streets; and

(b) if there are still some on the streets when it is proposed to provide accommodation to these persons also?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b). According to the survey made by the Delhi State Government in June, 1952, there were 21,614 displaced families in Delhi residing on pavements, Government lands and Dharamshallas etc. Out of these, 6,809 families had been provided with alternative accommodation upto 1st March 1953, and accommodation was available for allotment for another 1,167 families on the above date. It is hoped that all the eligible squatters will be provided with accommodation by the end of 1953-54.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Has Government fixed a certain particular date after which arrivals in Delhi of displaced persons should not be considered as entitled to rehabilitation in Delhi?

Shri A. P. Jain: That is exactly so.

Sardar Hukam Sinkh: May I know what is that date?

Shri A. P. Jain: 15th August 1950.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Does this mean that displaced persons who have come later, are not at all entitled to rehabilitation?

Shri A. P. Jain: They can fend for themselves.

Shri Bansal: Is it a fact that besides evacuees there are a large number of other persons including Government servants who do not have any residential accommodation in Delhi?

Shri A. P. Jain: Presumably that is so, but that does not concern me.

Shri Punnoose: The hon. Minister stated that a certain date was fixed after which if persons arrived in Delhi, they would not be considered fit for rehabilitation. May I know when was the date announced?

Shri A. P. Jain: The date was announced by Mr. Gadgil, I believe, in the beginning of 1951, and the announcement was that those who squatted on the 15th of August 1950 would be entitled to alternative accommodation and those who squatted between the 15th August 1950 and 5th January 1951 would be given some *ad hoc* assistance.

बाबू रामनारायण सिह : कितने इवकुई हाउसेज अबतक खाली पड़े हें और उन खाली मकानात में यह निर्वासित भाई क्यों नहीं रक्खे जाते ?

श्री ए० पी० जैन : ऐसे इवैकुई हाउसेज खाली नहीं पड़े हुए हैं, कोई १०, २०, २५, या ३० खाली हों, तो हों, इस से ज्यादा नहीं हैं ।

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : ऐसे मकानों की कोई गिनती नहीं है ?

श्री ए० पी० जैन : गिनती बतला तो दी, तीस, पैंतीस ।

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether there are any evacuee houses which are occupied by 'locals' and not by displaced persons in Delhi?

Shri A. P. Jain: Yes. There are some evacuee houses which are occupied by 'locals' and by 'locals' I mean those who have been living there before the 15th of August, and they continue to live there.

DISPLACED PERSONS LIVING IN TENTS OR BARRACKS

***1024. Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state whether there are some displaced persons in Delhi State who are living in tents or barracks which have outlived their normal life?

(b) If so, what is their number and when do Government hope to provide them with suitable accommodation?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b). About one thousand families are living in old barracks in Kingsway, Delhi. These barracks are being demolished and the occupants are being given alternative accommodation. It is hoped that all these persons will be provided with accommodation by **March, 1954.**

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether these barracks are there only in the Kingsway Camp or are there any other localities where displaced persons are living in old barracks?

Shri A. P. Jain: Nowhere else.

CAMPS FOR INTERNEES

***1025. Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to state whether the camps constructed or acquired during the World War II for internees of other countries have been disposed of finally?

(b) If not, is any expenditure still being incurred on them by way of rent or maintenance?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) Of the two internment camps set up, one, namely at Dehra Dun, was disposed of soon after the internees had been repatriated in 1946. The buildings which originally belonged to the Defence Ministry were made over to them; while the rest were placed at the disposal of the Rehabilitation Ministry for rehabilitating displaced persons. The second camp which is at Deoli was, till May 1950, being used to house certain displaced persons from Sind. Steps are now being taken to dispose of this camp as early as possible.

(b) An expenditure of about Rs. 15,187 on the Watch and Ward staff, minor repairs, protection of buildings, rental charges for the land etc., was incurred during the year 1952-53 on the Deoli Camp.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether any provision has been made for giving alternate accommodation to displaced persons who were living here?

Shri Datar: Yes.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: What has happened to the camp which was situated near Satna in Vindhya Pradesh?

Shri Datar: I should like to have notice. This question relates to two camps.

Shri Gidwani: To what use is the Deoli Camp put now, on which money has been spent?

Shri Datar: The Deoli Camp is not in a position for occupation. So it is going to be demolished.

CADETS

***1026. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India have recently invited the Commonwealth Governments to send cadets to India as a reciprocal goodwill gesture?

(b) If so, how many of the Commonwealth Governments have responded to that invitation?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) Yes. Cadets from four Commonwealth countries were invited.

(b) Two.

Dr Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the names of the countries from which the cadets have come?

Shri Satish Chandra: United Kingdom and Australia.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: When did they visit this country and how long did they stay?

Shri Satish Chandra: They stayed for about a month here. They came in the middle of January and left in February.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether any Indian cadets have visited any other Commonwealth countries and if so, when?

Shri Satish Chandra: For the past two years the U. K. Government had been inviting our cadets to visit U.K. and join their camps and some of our cadets were sent. This time we invited their cadets to join our combined camp which was held in Delhi and these cadets also joined the Republic Day celebrations here in Delhi.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know if some of the cadets are taking part in the Coronation celebrations?

Shri Satish Chandra: No, Sir.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know if South Africa is among the Commonwealth countries invited?

Shri Satish Chandra: No. Sir.

Shri Jaipal Singh: Do I understand that this 'bandobast' will continue to be on a reciprocal basis *i.e.,* our inviting the cadets and our cadets going to the U.K. and other Commonwealth countries will be a regular thing of the future?

Shri Satish Chandra: Yes. Sir; this practice is a healthy one. They come in contact with each other; they learn and know things from each other. It is not so much a question of reciprocity. We were invited there. We found that the training was useful. We invited them in turn.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Have Government received any invitation from any other countries other than the U. K. for sending our cadets?

Shri Satish Chandra: I do not think there has been any invitation up to this time from any other country except the U. K.

Shri Gopala Rao: Is this strictly confined to Commonwealth countries or are Government extending it to all friendly countries?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister has said that the invitation had come only from one country till now. There is the question of policy. I will proceed to the next question.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES ABROAD

***1027. Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state how the Budget Estimates of two lacs of rupees for cultural activities abroad have been spent in 1952-53?

(b) How many teachers and professors have been exchanged and with what countries during this period?

(c) How many delegations and cultural missions were sent and received during the same period?

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VII, annexure No. 1.]

(b) and (c). No teacher or professor has been exchanged nor any delegation sent during 1952-53 under the scheme mentioned in part (a) of the question. However, a debating team of University students was sent to the United Kingdom and a student delegate to the New York Herald Tribune Forum. Partial financial assistance was given to two persons for attending International Conferences.

श्री एस० सी० सामन्त : क्या मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जान सकता हूं कि इंडियन हौस्पिस जेरुसलम को जो तीन हज़ार रुपये की ग्रान्ट दी गयी है, वह मेंटेनेंस के लिये दी गयी है, या कोई दूसरी बिलडिंग बनाने के लिए दी गयी है ?

श्री के० डी० मालवीय : मेंटेनेंस के लिए जो यह रक़म दी गई है, बिलडिंग के लिए भी इस में रक़म शामिल है या नहीं, यह मैं अभी नहीं बतला सकता ।

श्री एस० सी० सामन्त : क्या मैं जान सकता हूं कि यहां से जो केयर बुक्स मिली हैं वह हमारी सेंट्रल लायब्रेरी में रक्खी गयी हैं या सारे भारत में बांटी गयी हैं ?

منسٹر آف ایجوکیشن اینڈ نیچرل ریسورسز اینڈ سائنٹفک ریسرچ (مولانا آزاد): امریکہ سے جو کتابیں آئی ہیں غالباً سیکریٹریٹ لائبریری میں رکھی گئی ہیں - لیکن میں ابھی یقین کے ساتھہ نہیں کہ سکتا -

[**The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad)**: The books received from America have, probably, been kept in the Secretariat Library. But I am not definite about it.]

Shri K. Subrahmanyam: May I know, Sir, whether there has been any exchange of artists, journalists or writers on governmental or other level?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: No, Sir, neither on governmental nor other level.

श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी : क्या मैं जान सकता हूं कि क्या विदेशों में कोई सांस्कृतिक जल्से हुए जिन में हिन्दुस्तान ने किसी प्रकार से भाग लिया, और अगर लिया तो किन किन मुल्कों में ? और सरकार ने कुछ सहायता दी है ?

श्री के० डी० मालवीय : जी हां, विदेशों में जो सांस्कृतिक जल्से हुए हैं उन में जो संस्थायें या व्यक्ति यहां से गये हैं उन को सहायता दी गई है और सूची में उन के नाम दर्ज हैं ।

Shri Punnoose: It was said that some student delegate was sent to U. K. or so. May I know, Sir, how was he selected—was it by a representative organisation?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Applications are invited. The initiative is taken by individuals or institutions and when these applications are received by the Government, they are considered and help granted.

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : शिक्षा विभाग की तरफ से जितने डेलिगेशन बाहर भेजे गये और शिक्षा सम्बन्धी जितने डेलिगेशन यहां बाहर से आये उन के आने जाने में कितना खर्च हुआ और उन से क्या लाभ हुआ ?

مولانا آزاد : اس کی پوری تفصیل اس وقت نہیں بتلائی جا سکتی -

[**Maulana Azad:** The details cannot be given just at this time.]

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know, Sir, if Government has sent any artist or musician to the exhibition that is organised in Norway?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: This scheme does not include the sending of any artist to Norway. I have already given a list of the help that has been given to various institutions and individuals.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी को यह मालूम है कि जहां तक पूर्वी देशों का सम्बन्ध है, और उन में भी खास कर जापान और स्याम का, वहां के लोग इस बात के इच्छुक हैं कि इस प्रकार के सांस्कृतिक आदान प्रादान को बहुत अधिक बढ़ाया जाय ? और यदि यह बात मालूम है तो जापान और स्याम के सम्बन्ध में क्या कोई विशेष प्रबन्ध सरकार द्वारा किया गया है ।

श्री के० डी० मालवीय : जो सूचना माननीय सदस्य ने दी है उस से सरकार को बहुत प्रसन्नता है । जापान में बुधिस्ट सम्मेलन में भाग लेने के लिये सहायता दी गई है । Financial Aid to Dr. Arbinda Barua for participation in the Buddhist Conference held in Japan. के आइटम की ओर में माननीय सदस्य का ध्यान दिलाता हूं ।

Prof. D. C. Sharma: May I know, Sir, if there is any scheme under contemplation to exchange teachers and professors with other countries?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: As far as I know there is no specific proposal before the Government in that connection. If there are any such proposals, Government will consider them.

श्री एस० सी० सामन्त : इटली और बर्लिन में हिन्दी सीखने के लिये जो प्रोफेसर भेजे गये थे उन को पैसेज के लिये रुपया दिया गया है, क्या मैं जान सकता हूं कि उन को कोई तन्ख्वाह वहां मिलती है या नहीं ? यदि नहीं मिलती है तो वहां से जो प्रोफेसर हमारे यहां आते हैं उन को हम तन्ख्वाह देते हैं या नहीं ?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, order. There is too much of talk in the House.

श्री के० डी० मालवीय : इस प्रकार तनख्वाह के आधार पर एक्स्चेन्ज की कोई योजना नहीं है । जो व्यक्ति यहां से गये हैं उन को सरकार ने सहायता दी है और वह व्यक्ति हिन्दी शिक्षा के सम्बन्ध में गये हैं । मुझे यह नहीं मालूम है कि वहां सरकार से कोई वेतन मिलता है या नहीं ।

SURVEY OF LOKTAK LAKE, MANIPUR

*1028. **Shri L. J. Singh:** Will the Minister of **Natural Resources and Scientific Research** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Assistant Zoologist, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta has been deputed to Manipur to survey the Loktak lake;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what are his activities there, what are the subjects for which the survey is being carried out and how long he will stay there; and

(c) what are the development schemes contemplated in connection with this survey?

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The officer conducted a faunistic survey of Manipur valley with special reference to aquatic fauna and stayed there for this work from 6th January to 21st February, 1953.

(c) The purpose of the survey is to acquire knowledge of the animal life in the valley and is not connected with any development scheme.

Shri L. J. Singh: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that a fossil of a cuttle fish believed to be 40 to 60 million years old has been found in a villige on the Dimapur-Manipur Road, some 27 miles from Imphal by the Zoological Survey of India team?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Certain valuable information regarding aquatic fauna has been collected from that region, as it is supposed that that region was some millions of years ago a lake. It is also learnt that certain valuable information about fish has been collected, but I cannot give the precise information that the hon. member seeks.

Shri Amjad Ali: What will be the age of that particular kind of cuttle fish?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I am afraid I cannot give any particular information in this connection.

Shri Amjad Ali: Was there any other find of that description in Manipur?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Sir, I said certain information had been gathered about the aquatic fauna—the animals —of that region. The full report is not before us. Information has just now been collected by the party and they may be preparing the report.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know, Sir, whether this survey was merely a zoological survey or was it also a palaentological survey?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: It was a zoological survey and perhaps not much to do as such with palaentological survey.

Shri Jaipal Singh: During the survey, were any pink-headed ducks discovered in the area?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members will kindly await the report. The details cannot be known to the hon. Minister. There is no good going into its detail.

Shri L. J. Singh: May I know, Sir, when the report is expected to be available?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Very soon.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member is satisfied?

Shri L. J. Singh: Will the Minister please state whether it will be laid on the Table of the House when it is received?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Yes, Sir. As desired the report will be placed on the Table.

REFORMS IN MANIPUR JAIL

*1031. **Shri L. J. Singh:** Will the Minister of **States** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce any reform in Manipur jail;

(b) if so, the main features of the reform;

(c) whether hand-pounding and paddy-husking by prisoners is being continued;

(d) whether elementary education is imparted to the illiterate prisoners;

(e) whether weaving by prisoners on commercial lines is being discontinued; and

(f) if so, why?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) and (b). Certain reforms have been introduced and I place on the Table of the House a statement showing their main features. [*See* Appendix VII, annexure No. 2.]

(c) Hand-pounding is not done but paddy-husking is done with feet at Denki. Even this will stop when rice instead of paddy is received from the Civil Supplies Department.

(d) Yes. A start has been made with the juvenile prisoners and would be gradually extended.

(e) No. The Medical and Veterinary Departments in the State are receiving their gauze, bandage, bed sheets and mosquito curtains from the jail; dusters, *zharons* and table cloths are supplied to other departments of the State.

(f) Does not arise.

Shri L. J. Singh: I find in the statement that a Reformatory school for juvenile prisoners has been started and instruction is being given up to class V. May I know whether Government propose to start a Reformatory school for adult prisoners?

Dr. Katju: My hon. friend speaks in such a way that we find it difficult to catch what we wants to say.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He is aware of a Reformatory school for juvenile offenders. He wants to know whether the Government contemplates to have a Reformatory school for adult prisoners.

Dr. Katju: I should like to have a reference to any place in this world where there are Reformatory schools for adults.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: From the statement it is found that as a reform purchase of vegetables from bazar has been stopped, and only garden vegetables are used. Are we to understand that when the garden does not produce the necessary vegetables, there will be no vegetables for the prisoners?

Dr. Katju: I really cannot go into these small matters.

Shri Amjad Ali: Regarding these reforms, may I know whether *ganni* labour has been abolished and whether mosquito curtains have been introduced?

Dr. Katju: I cannot tell you but I know this, when I was in jail, I never got a mosquito curtain.

Shri Amjad Ali: This is not a reply to my question. I put it to you, Sir, I want your guidance. Is that the way in which an answer should be given?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am sorry, I am not able to understand the questions even, leave alone the answers given by the hon. Minister.

Shri Amjad Ali: The hon. Minister was asked whether mosquito curtains have been introduced in jails regarding third class prisoners. He says that when he was in jail he did not get a mosquito curtain. He was a first class prisoner; he would not have got a mosquito curtain. As a matter of fact, third class prisoners should have got it. I wanted to know also whether *ganni* labour has been abolished.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. There is no good of arguing about this. If the hon. Member wants to know whether third class prisoners get it, that is another matter. Let the hon. Member discuss it.

Shri Punnoose: The hon. Minister stated that juvenile prisoners are given some sort of education and some school is arranged. May I know how many pupils are given instruction and how many teachers there are?

Dr. Katju: I have not got the details here. I should like to have a further question about that.

JOINT EXERCISES BY INDIAN AND FOREIGN NAVY

***1032. Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** (a) Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state the number of joint exercises carried out by the Indian and foreign Navies during the years 1950, 1951 and 1952?

(b) Which are the foreign countries that participated in these exercises and where?

(c) What was the purpose of these exercises?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) 14.

(b) (i) United Kingdom, Ceylon and Pakistan.

(ii) At Trincomalee (Ceylon).

Indian Ocean

Arabian Sea

Gulf of Aden

Bay of Bengal

Malacca Straits

Singapore.

(c) To train the officers and men of the Indian Navy in the efficient handling of their ships and fighting Weapons.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Do I take it, Sir, that our Navy's know-how is patterned on the manoeuvring and other capacities of the other foreign countries concerned, which were mentioned by the Minister?

Shri Satish Chandra: Of course, the knowledge of the United Kingdom is better than ours.

RAISING SKILLED PERSONNEL FROM FACTORIES AND PRIVATE COMPANIES

***1033. Shri M. R. Krishna:** Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state whether Government have any scheme to raise skilled personnel from factories and private companies as supplementary reserve for use in emergency?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): Yes; the question with regard to the formation of a supplementary reserve in the Armed Forces is under the consideration of Government.

Shri M. R. Krishna: What would be the conditions on which they would be employed in the military to serve in an emergency?

Sardar Majithia: I said it is under the consideration of the Government and when the Government comes to a decision, you will probably know.

RESEARCH PROGRAMMES OF NATIONAL LABORATORIES

***1035. Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** (a) Will the Minister of **Natural Resources and Scientific Research** be pleased to state who finalises the research-programmes of the various National Laboratories?

(b) How far are the needs of Indian Industry taken into account when these programmes are finalised and through what machinery?

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) and (b). The programmes of research of the National Laboratories are drawn by the Directors of the Laboratories, which function under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research after considering the suggestions received from the public, industries, research committees of the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research and Government organisations. The industrialist members of the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Governing Body of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research also make suggestions from time to time. The programmes are then placed before the Advisory Board of the Laboratories, which are composed of industrialists and scientists. The needs of Indian Industry are taken into account by having industrialists interested in related industry on the Advisory Board of each Laboratory.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May we know, Sir, under what terms, all patents perfected by the National Laboratories are leased out to industrialists?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Each patent is considered on individual merits.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: That is not my question. On what terms are they given out to industrialists?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Generally, when a research is made and a discovery completed, and its patent obtained, then the patents are given out to the industrialists on royalty basis.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know, Sir, how many such processes have been leased out and to whom during the last one year?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How does that arise out of the question?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I cannot give that. If the hon. Member wants the exact figures, she may put a separate question.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know, Sir, is there any co-ordinated plan for the Five Year Plan and, if so, how will the Five Year Plan be integrated with the plan which has been sent out by the Laboratories?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The researches that go on in the Laboratories cannot be dovetailed into a Five Year Plan or a Seven Year Plan. Whenever researches are made and discoveries and investigations are completed, they are considered as individual researches. There are appropriate Committees and Bodies to consider them and to distribute them. They are done by the Government themselves or given over to the industries.

Shri Damodara Menon: Apart from giving representation to the Industrialists on the Advisory Board, is there any definite scheme by which the activities of these research laboratories are co-ordinated with the needs of the industry?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Yes. there are schemes and these schemes have been further pursued.

Shri Bansal: What are the schemes to which the hon. Minister referred?

منسٹر آف ایجوکیشن اینڈ نیچرل رسورسز اینڈ سائنٹیفک ریسرچ (مولانا آزاد) : اسکیم یہ ہے کہ ایک خاص ڈیولپ منٹ کارپوریشن اس غرض سے قائم کیا جائیگا -

[**The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad):** The scheme is that a special development corporation would be set up for this purpose.]

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether in view of the fact that there is food scarcity and in view of the fact that there is great scope for the development of deep-sea fishing. Government have got any scheme for doing research in developing deep-sea fishing?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The National Laboratories are not concerned with deep-sea fishing for tackling food scarcity. The Waltair University has a section under it which is dealing with this and they are doing some work.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I take it that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Scientific Research considers it to be only of such little importance?

مولانا آزاد : نہیں اس کو فوڈ منسٹری کر رہی ہے -

[**Maulana Azād:** No ,the Ministry of Food is dealing with it.]

श्री वी० पी० नायर : अंग्रेज़ी में बोलो ।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : अंग्रेज़ी में बोलो नहीं, अंग्रेज़ी में बोलिये ।

Next question, Q. No. 1036.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I want to make a submission, Sir. When the hon. Minister gives us statements laid on the Table of the House, when they are exceeding two pages, can they be given to us a day before instead of giving 10 or 12 minutes before?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member may put supplementary questions later on.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: It will never come, Sir.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The question is a very comprehensive one as to the help that the Laboratories are giving to the cottage industries and the small scale industries.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I would only say that whenever Government is in possession of these facts, and can lay it in the Notice Office a day in advance, they will kindly do so.

SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES

***1036. Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** (a) Will the Minister of **Natural Resources and Scientific Research be** pleased to state whether any of the National Laboratories has up till now done any work connected with the improvement of small-scale industries?

(b) If so, what are the details of such work?

(c) To what extent has it been applied under commercial conditions?

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A statement giving the required information is laid on the

Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VII, annexure No. 3.]

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know, Sir, out of the 400 parties which have been mentioned as having been given advice, how many of them are individuals and how many are companies and how many are co-operatives?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I am afraid, Sir, I cannot give that break-up. The reply only mentions that there are 400 parties who were advised.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know, Sir, if individuals who want to benefit from the researches can apply straight and get help?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Yes.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know, Sir, whether there is any machinery to follow up the success or otherwise of these researches when they are put into commercial enterprise?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: These industries are always welcome to come with their difficulties to the Laboratory and whenever these difficulties are referred to them, they get adequate help and whatever help is possible, the Director of these Laboratories is always willing to give.

श्री जांगड़े : क्या मैं जान सकता हूं कि सरकार ने खादी के चरखे में कोई ऐसा सुधार किया है कि जिससे चरखा गांव गांव में पहुंचाया जा सके और सस्ते दाम पर मिल सके और बनाया जा सके ?

श्री के० डी० मालवीय : इन लैबोरेटरीज़ से तो कोई सम्बन्ध चरखे की तरक़्क़ी का नहीं है, लेकिन और जगह ग़ालिबन यह काम ज़रूर हो रहा है।

Shri B. S. Murthy: Has any special encouragement been given to the co-operatives?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: That is a matter of policy which is dealt with by the Ministry concerned.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: Does this Research Institute or Council, or do the National Laboratories, take up any individual cottage industries and do research in them and consider their improvement, or...(*Interruption.*)

Shri K. D. Malaviya: They do not take any cottage industry as such. They take up problems—fundamental and applied—and whatever problems are solved are applied with regard to the spread of any particular industry.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Is the market position also ascertained and advice given on it?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Yes, the commercial aspect of the scheme is also looked into and suitable advice is given.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know what steps are being taken in order to cater to the workers in the tanning industry in particular and in cottage industries in general, so that they can benefit from the laboratory researches?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: A lot of problems pertaining to small industries like the tanning industry have been solved by the Research Institute in the South.

Shri B. S. Murthy: My question is—what is the channel through which the results of the reseaches that are conducted are carried to the cottage workers in the tanning industry?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: There are publications of the Institute and these publications are referred to whosoever enquires. Also, these publications are circulated amongst those people who are doing the work.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Does the Minister know that most of these cottage workers in the tanning industry are illiterate and therefore they cannot purchase books?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Has the hon. Member gone to the Central Leather Research Institute?

Shri B. S. Murthy: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Has he seen the work that is being done there?

Shri B. S. Murthy: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What is this? Such details are unnecesary. Hon. Members should go there and see how it is propagated.

Shri B. S. Murthy: No, Sir. It is a very important question and needs an answer. Most of the labourers in this industry are illiterate and I want to know...(*Interruption.*)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I do not want to stifle anybody. All that I am saying is this. Many things are being done now. I am not doing propaganda for the Government, but let hon. Members go and see things, instead of asking for such small details as to how it is sought to be spread and so on. Any question can be put on any hypothetical matter, but so far as this matter is concerned, I took part in the discussions of the Planning Commission and although I am not competent to answer any of these questions, it jars on my ears when these questions are asked without knowing exactly what kind and volume of work is being done there. Therefore, I would request hon. Members to go to these various Laboratories and find out what work is being done there.

Shri B. S. Murthy: I bow to your ruling, but my difficulty is this. I want to know what is the channel through which information about research is carried to the tanning workers.

Mr .Deputy-Speaker: He has already said that books are published and sent to them in the various industries in question.

We will proceed to the next question.

PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

***1037. Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** (a) Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state what are the functions of the Psychological Research Organisation?

(b) Who are the members of its Directing Body?

(c) What is the number of employees of this organisation?

(d) Are there any foreign nationals employed in this organisation?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) The main duty of the Psychological Research Organisation is to have under constant review the working of the Selection Boards in order to ensure that the tests applied to the candidates are sound and their interpretation is in accordance with the latest psychological researches. It is also responsible for the training of personnel employed on selection work in the three Services.

(b) The Psychological Research Wing forms part of the Defence Science Organisation and as such comes directly under the Ministry of Defence. It is headed by Dr. Sohan Lal, Chief Psychologist, who is assisted by one senior and four Junior Psychologists.

(c) Number of employees of this Organisation is as follows:—

Officers (Civilian 7 and Military 6)	13.
JCOs.	3
Statistical Assistants	6
Ministerial Staff	20
Class IV Servants	13
Total	55

(d) No.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: How long ago was this organisation set up, and what is the Ministry's report regarding the results of the working of this organisation?

Sardar Majithia: This organisation was set up somewhere round about 1943 and as for the results, the House will be pleased to know that it has constantly shown an improvement. From 39.3 per cent. rejections before this organisation came into existence, progressively the rejections have decreased to about 4.8 per cent. in the last course.

Shri Jaipal Singh: How many psychiatrists are associated with this research organisation?

Sardar Majithia: As I said, there is one Chief Psychologist and one Senior Psychologist.

Shri Jaipal Singh: I asked: how many psychiatrists are there?

Sardar Majithia: Two.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know the result of the intensive follow-up of the cadets in our National Academy at Dehra Dun?

Sardar Majithia: Yes, they are being followed up. Not only that, but about four or five years after they have been commissioned, their careers are followed up. As I have just said, the working of this organisation is very satisfactory.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

Shri Namdhari: Do Government propose to open a section for the psychological study of the Communist Members for exposing their art of exploitation?

CONSTRUCTION OF RESERVE BANK BUILDING

***1038. Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state which is the Government supervising agency for the construction of the Reserve Bank Building in New Delhi?

(b) When was the construction commenced and how long it will take to complete?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) There is no question of any Government supervising agency as the construction of the Building is the responsibility of the Reserve Bank which has made adequate arrangements for the purpose.

(b) The construction work commenced on the 1st October 1952 and is expected to be completed in 3 years from the date of commencement provided all the building materials are available in time.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know how many contractors sent in tenders for this work; what was the lowest tender received; and was this lowest tender accepted by the concerned authorities?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: I cannot give the number of the contractors who applied, but the contract was given to the lowest tenderer.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether there were allegations against one of the contractors that he defrauded public money to the extent of Rs. 11 lakhs in connection with the construction of an aerodrome at Bhadrugarh?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: I am not aware of it.

Shri Gopala Rao: May I know what is the estimated cost of the construction?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: For the general building the estimated cost is Rs. 72,38,000.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether on the 23rd January 1953 a Central Government servant—a junior Civil Engineer of 26 years practical experience—was assaulted by the contractor?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How does this arise out of the question under reply? Every time a clerk is assaulted, or every time a servant is assaulted, need we bring it up here?

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether this estimate was prepared by the C.P.W.D. or by any other agency directed by the Reserve Bank?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: As I said, the matter is entirely for the Reserve Bank. Government has only the power of superintendence. I understand that the Reserve Bank consulted some engineer in preparing the estimate.

Shri Velayudhan: On previous occasions when the Reserve Bank had to construct a building, was not the C.P.W.D. entrusted with the work of preparing the estimate and constructing the building?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: I have not been able to follow his question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Has it been the practice all along for the Reserve Bank to draw upon the services of the Central Public Works Department for their construction work?

Shri V. P. Nayar: How was the power of superintendence exercised in the matter of ascertaining the antecedents of this contractor?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: The power of superintendence does not percolate to that matter.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know, Sir, who is the architect entrusted with the designing of this building?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has already said that the entire responsibility is that of the Reserve Bank: Government is only supervising. Has the hon. Minister got the name of the architect?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: I have not got the name of the architect.

FORT OF KITTUR CHANNAMMA

***1039. Shri Sivamurthi Swami:** Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the people or any society for the preservation of "The Fort of Kittur Channamma" as a national monument in Belgaum district of Bombay State; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) and (b). No, but on receipt of this question, a report has been called for from Director General of Archaeology.

Shri Sivamurthi Swami: May I know whether the Historical Society of the Belgaum District has requested Government to take over this fort?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: No, as I have already said.

Shri Sivamurthi Swami: May I know if the revolt of the people of this area against British supremacy will be included in the History of National Freedom Movement?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The hon. member is thinking of something else.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What is it that he wants?

Shri Sivamurthi Swami: Has the Society requested the Government to record the history of this Fort in the National Freedom History which is to be published by an Expert Committee?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How does it arise out of this question?

HOSHIARPUR RAM COLONY CAMP

***1040. Shri Ram Dass:** Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land on which the Hoshiarpur (Punjab) Ram Colony Camp for displaced widows and orphans stands is the property of Government or of the Ram Colony Company, Hoshiarpur;

(b) if this land belongs to the Company, whether Government have any intention to acquire the land for the Camp for the displaced widows and orphans;

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, whether the whole land of the Company will be acquired or only a part of it;

(d) whether the terms of the acquisition of this land have been settled with the Company, if so, what are the terms;

(e) whether the Government of India have received any proposals from the Punjab Government for the acquisition of this land; and

(f) what these proposals are and at what stage they are?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Out of 24·82 acres of land on which the Home is located, 17·64 acres are the property of the Ram Colony. The remaining land belongs to another private party.

(b) Yes.

(c) Only the land under the Home will be acquired.

(d) The terms have still to be settled.

(e) Yes.

(f) The State Government have recommended acquisition of 24·82 acres of land at a cost of Rs. 1,17,200. While the details remain to be settled, the proposal has been accepted in principle.

PRISON REFORM SCHEME BY DR. RECKLESS

***1041. Shri N. Sreekantan Nair:** Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mr. Reckless has submitted to the U.N. O. any scheme for prison reforms in India; and

(b) whether the Government of India intend to enforce the scheme?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) and (b). Government have received a copy of a preliminary 'restricted' Report submitted by Dr. Reckless to the U.N.O. The final version of the Report is, however, awaited. On its receipt, the matter will be considered in consultation with the State Governments.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: May I know, Sir, whether the report emphasises the necessity of overall change in the whole administration of the jails?

Shri Datar: As the contents of the report are restricted only to certain persons, I cannot give the information here.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know, Sir, whether the report was submitted by Mr. Reckless to the United Nations, and if so was a copy of it sent to the Government of India?

Shri Datar: The report was prepared for the Government of India, but submitted to the United Nations and from the United Nations we have received a preliminary copy.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: May I know whether with or without this Reckless report Government intends to bring in reforms such as abolishing of giving stripings as punishment, etc.?

Shri Datar: This question does not arise out of this question.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: Will the Reckless report be circulated among the Members?

Shri Datar: If the report is de-restricted that matter will be considered.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What is this restriction and de-restriction?

Shri Datar: The use of the report is restricted to the Government of India and to the officers of the United Nations: to others it is not available.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: By whom is it restricted?

Shri Datar: It is restricted by the United Nations.

Shri Punnoose: May I know whether Mr. Reckless visited Indian prisons and studied the conditions here and if so how many prisons did he visit?

Shri Datar: All this has been answered already. This is the third time that the case of Dr. Reckless comes before this House. Full information has already been given.

"HIS EXCELLENCY" AND "HONOURABLE"

***1042. Shri Amjad Ali:** Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the terms "His Excellency" and "Honourable" with reference to State Governors and Ministers (both States and Central) respectively have officially been omitted; and

(b) whether there is any other dignitary with respect to whom either of these two terms is still applied?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) Yes.

(b) No. The use of these honorific appellations is, however, permitted where it is necessary from the point of view of international usage and courtesy or of Parliamentary practice.

Shri Amjad Ali: What is the Parliamentary practice?

Shri Datar: Parliamentary practice is the one we follow—we call each other hon. members and hon. Ministers.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF ASSAM

***1045. Shri Beli Ram Das:** (a) Will the Minister of **Natural Resources and Scientific Research** be pleased to state whether any Geological Survey has been made in the State of Assam?

(b) If so, in which districts was such survey made?

(c) What was the result of such survey?

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A statement giving particulars of the districts in Assam in which geological mapping was done and important economic investigations carried out during the last 5 years, is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VII, annexure No. 4.]

A statement giving the published reports of the Geological Survey of India which give information regarding the results of the surveys. is also laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VII. annexure No. 4.]

Shri Beli Ram Das: What steps do Government propose to take to exploit these resources?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: It is a matter for the State Governments.

Shri Beli Ram Das: Is the Government aware of the recent press note that large quantities of mineral ore have been found at Nahorkotia in the District of Lakhimpur and what steps do Government propose to take to exploit them?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He said it is the responsibility of the State Government.

Shri G. P. Sinha: What is the quantity of petrol reserve found out as a result of survey in Assam?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: As I said, oil has been discovered in the district of Lakhimpur. We have no information of the quantity.

Shri Amjad Ali: Has the Government of Assam got a Ministry of Natural Resources and Scientific Research, when he says that it is the business of the State Government to go into the work of survey?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The work of survey is that of the Government of India; exploitation of the results of the survey rests with the State Governments.

Shri Jaipal Singh: In view of the fact that 'Petroleum' is a Central subject, does the hon. Minister really mean to say that the question of exploitation of petroleum is to be left to the States and the Centre has nothing to do with it?

دی منسٹر آف ایجوکیشن اینڈ نیچرل ریسورسز اینڈ سائینٹفیک ریسرچ (مولانا آزاد) : جو آنریبل ممبر نے کہا ھے صحیح ھے ۔ لیکن آسام میں جو سروے کیا گیا اس کا تعلق صرف تیل سے نہیں تھا ۔ زیادہ تر تعلق کوئلے سے تھا اور اور چیزوں سے انکا تعلق اسٹیٹس سے ھے ۔

[**The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad):** The hon. Member is right. But the Survey in Assam related not only to petroleum but mostly to coal and other things, the exploitation of which is the responsibility of the States.]

श्री जयपाल सिंह : जी हां, मगर मेरे दोस्त ने कहा कि पेट्रोलियम . . . .

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question was about the estimated quantity. He said he has not got the information.

Shri Amjad Ali: It is the business of the Central Government and not the State Government. How does the State Government come in?

مولانا آزاد : دو کام ھیں - ایک کام یہ ھے کہ سروے کرنا اور معلوم کرنا کہ یہاں کے نیچورل ریسورسیز کیا کیا ھیں ۔ یہ گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا کا کام ھے - لیکن جب سروے کے بعد معلوم ھو گیا کہ مثلاً یہاں پر کوئلہ ھے تو اب کوئلہ کی کان کو کام میں لانا اور اسکا بندوبست کرنا یہ استیٹس کا کام ھے ۔

[**Maulana Azad:** This work may be divided into two parts. The first part relates to the survey which is the responsibility of the Government of India. But after the survey if, for instance, it is found that a particular site contains coal deposits, it is the responsibility of the State Government concerned to exploit those deposits.]

AGE OF SUPERANNUATION

*1046. **Shri N. S. Jain:** Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased **to** state:

(a) whether Government have decided to raise the age of superannuation for Government servants **from** 55 to 58; and

(b) if so, from what date it shall come into effect?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) and (b). No. The matter is under consideration. But a final decision will be taken in a very short time.

Shri N. S. Jain: Were the State Governments consulted on this point?

Dr. Katju: This refers particularly to the Government servants employed by the Central Government, but that matter will also be borne in mind.

Shri Dabhi: May I know the reasons which prompted the Government to consider this question of raising the age of superannuation?

Dr. Katju: This matter was raised before the Pay Commission and since then it has been under consideration.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether the hon. Minister is in a position to give the number of superannuated officers working now in the Government of India service?

Dr. Katju: I am very sorry I cannot give exact and precise information at the moment.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: Which section of the Government employees made representation for this raising of age?

Dr. Katju: I do not think there has been any precise representation by any particular class of Government servants. The matter has been in the air and has been under consideration, and Government's attention was invited to it, you may say, of itself.

Shri C. D. Pande: In case a decision is arrived at to extend the age-limit to fifty-eight, may I know whether this advantage will be extended to such officers who have retired lately or are likely to retire shortly?

Dr. Katju: That matter will also be borne in mind. But I cannot hold out much hope to gentlemen who have already retired. I think they deserve some rest.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: The hon. Minister has said several times that the matter is under consideration. Could we have some inkling as to the Government's point of view in this regard?

Dr. Katju: I told you the decision will be taken in a very short time. What more do you want?

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: May I know whether the limit for the age of superannuation would apply to hon. Ministers as well?

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether officers employed in technological and other scientific departments, persons with technical qualifications, will be given this benefit as early as possible?

Dr. Katju: If the hon. Member is referring to technological personnel and all that, they will certainly be given this extension.

Shri Damodara Menon: May I know the considerations which will weigh with the Government in arriving at a decision?

Dr. Katju: When coming to a final conclusion every possible aspect will be considered.

Shri V. P. Nayar: At present there are cases where persons superannuated are re-employed in places of higher responsibility. May I know whether the raising of the age-limit from fifty-five to fifty-eight will prevent the re-employment of top ranking superannuated persons in more responsible posts at least?

Dr. Katju: I am sorry I cannot go into the details. I have said over and over again that the matter is under consideration and a final decision will be taken soon.

Shri K. Subrahmanyam: May I know whether Government is in the know of the opposition of the Central Government Employees' Federation to this move?

Dr. Katju: I read the newspapers every day and I gather there is a section of the House which seems to be opposed to any change.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Not a section of the House. He is referring to the opposition of the Central Government Employees' Federation and wants to know whether Government is aware of it.

Dr. Katju: I gather it from the newspapers.

Shri Venkataraman: May I know whether Government have considered the extent of unemployment prevalent in the country today and the effect that this proposal would have on the unemployment situation?

Dr. Katju: That fact also will be considered.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: Will this matter be placed before the House and the opinion of the House taken on this subject?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Before coming to a decision, let me know what the question is? Hon. Members must be clear as to what they want. There are two things. One is after the decision is taken, placing the decision before the House. The other is to take the decision of the House before any further consideration is made. What is it that the hon. lady Member wants?

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: The second.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Will the House have an opportunity to consider this matter before a decision is taken?

Dr. Katju: I think the House would not like that procedure. The responsibility should rest where it belongs, namely on the Government.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: No, no.

Shri N. S. Jain: Is Government aware that this process in the Central Government would affect the State Governments?

Dr. Katju: I am aware.

Shri N. S. Jain: So would Government ascertain the wishes of the State Governments before a final decision is taken.

Dr. Katju: We shall consider that.

CONTRIBUTION BY KASHMIR TO CENTRAL FUND FOR PAYMENT OF PRIVY PURSE TO MAHARAJA

***1029. Shri Madhao Reddi:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state whether the Government of Kashmir has agreed to any contribution to Central Fund for the payment of Privy Purse to Maharaja Hari Singh, the *ex*-Ruler of Kashmir?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): No.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: May I know whether separate privy purses are granted to the *ex*-Maharaja and also the present Rajpramukh?

Dr. Katju: The position was this that when the Maharaja of Kashmir acceded to the Union a privy purse of Rs. 15 lakhs was fixed for him by the Government of India out of which the Jammu and Kashmir Government used to contribute Rs. 6 lakhs and the Government of India used to contribute Rs. 9 lakhs. After the recent decision by which the Sadr-i-Riyasat has been appointed over the Jammu and Kashmir State the State Government is not contributing anything and the privy purse of the Maharaja (from the Government of India) has been raised from Rs. 9 lakhs to Rs. 10 lakhs. That is the position. And this privy purse was guaranteed to the Maharaja in 1949 by the Government of India.

Shri N Sreekantan Nair: What is this Sadr-i-Riyasat?

Dr Katju· That is what you may call the translation of the word 'Governor'.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: What does he get?

Dr. Katju: He is getting a salary, I believe, equivalent to the Governor's salary, right from the State. Out of this Rs. 10 lakhs there is an arrangement between the Maharaja, the Maharaja's wife (the Maharani) and the son, namely the Sadr-i-Riyasat and they divide it in certain proportion among themselves.

Shri Damodara Menon: Is it not a fact that in the case of other *ex*-Rulers the State Governments are contributing to the Central Fund?

Dr. Katju: That is a fact, because in the case of those States there has been financial integration. As a result of the financial integration as a whole because the integration has relieved them a great deal from what were called Federal Expenses, the State Governments in those cases have taken upon themselves either to pay the whole or a portion of the privy purse. But inasmuch as no financial integration has so far been completed with the Jammu and Kashmir Government, that illustration is not material.

SURVEY OF MINERAL WEALTH IN ADILABAD

***1030. Shri Madhao Reddi:** Will the Minister of **Natural Resources and Scientific Research** be pleased to state whether any detailed survey of the mineral wealth in the District of Adilabad, Hyderabad State has been made?

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): Yes, Sir. A statement giving the results of past systematic geological mapping carried out in the district is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VII, annexure No. 5.]

Short Notice Question and Answer

KILLING OF HARIJANS BY DACOITS IN MADHYA BHARAT

Shri Kajrolkar: (a) Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to state whether the attention of the Government of India has been drawn to the report of the Press Trust of India dated the 13th March, 1953, in the 'Times of India' dated the 14th March 1953 that the Madhya Bharat Home Minister told the State Assembly on the 13th March 1953, that fifteen Harijans had been killed in Bhind and Morena Districts (Madhya Bharat) by dacoits during the past one year and if so, what steps have been taken by the Government of India?

(b) whether the Government is requesting the Madhya Bharat Government to hold an enquiry into this killing?

(c) Whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the meagre help given by the Madhya Bharat Government to survivors of those Harijans who were killed by dacoits and if so, whether Government are making any contribution in this respect?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): Sir, this matter is primarily the concern of the State Government but as a very special case I have collected the information and I shall give the answer.

(a) I have seen the Press report. The Madhya Bharat Government have imposed punitive police in these villages in which the Harijans were attacked and killed by dacoits. They have also intensified their anti-dacoity operations in the affected districts. At the moment eight companies of the S.A.F. are engaged in these operations.

(b) The Madhya Bharat Government have appointed a Committee to enquire into the high incidence of crime in the Districts of Bhind, Morena, Gwalior and Shivpuri. The Committee's report has not yet been received from the State Government.

(c) The Madhya Bharat Government and non-official agencies in the areas concerned have distributed grants to the families of the Harijans killed and injured by the dacoits. Grants as well as loans have also been given to those whose houses were destroyed. No complaint has been received that the assistance given was inadequate.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether Government have enquired into the reasons for these dacoities?

Dr. Katju: I have got information here. In the first place, these particular areas are reported to be notoriously criminal areas. Secondly incidents were due to the animosity existing between Harijans and Rajputs. As the House is aware, Rajputs consider that they are a very high class people and they would not allow Harijans to take advantage of certain things. There was enmity and the result was these unfortunate incidents.

Shri Velayudhan *rose*—

Shri Balakrishnan: May I know how much amount was given to each family as compensation?

Dr. Katju: In one incident in Pahavali, 6 people were injured and Rs. 100 was given to each family and Rs. 2,000 was given to allow them to build their houses and Rs. 1,800 was given as a loan by the Co-operative Society. In another incident in which a boy or some others were killed altogether Rs. 500 was given and an application has now been received for some more help for treatment and that application is still pending.

Shri Barman: May I know what were the privileges which the Harijans in that locality claimed and which were resented by the Rajputs which led to these unfortunate incidents?

Dr. Katju. I am only reading the report. In one place it is said that there was an election for a gram panchayat and a chamar was elected as Vice-President defeating a Rajput. Thereupon rose the struggle, shooting and killing. In another place it was said that one Firangi who was a dacoit was accused of a crime. The Harijans appeared as prosecution witnesses and Firangi was acquitted in spite of this evidence. After this he and his brother Lakhan Singh who is a notorious dacoit, entered the village with a number of other fellow dacoits. Chamar was sitting there with others. He said "You go and give evidence against me". Then he tied them and shot them dead. This is the type of incidents occurring.

Shri Radhelal Vyas: Were the Harijans killed in the *Barat* party protected by the police constables also and whether the police constables also were killed by the dacoits?

Dr. Katju: My hon. friend is referring to the latest incident about which there has been some misapprehension. Recently there was a news item that 13 Harijans were killed. This was entirely a misapprehension. In this particular incident not a single Harijan has been killed. As a matter of fact there were 4 Brahmins who were killed. 3 were Thakors, one was a Kachhi and there were two constables also. This was the doing of a very notorious dacoit who is still evading arrest, Lakhan Singh by name. These people were going to *Barat*. They were sleeping there. At 10 P.M. the dacoit and his associates shot them indiscriminately. The people who were supposed to have guarded them were 3 constables, 3 Thakors and one Kachhi. The newspapers reported that all these were Harijans. That is why my hon. friend was very much disturbed.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether any non-Harijans have been arrested so far for the death of these Harijans?

Dr. Katju: There must have been so many arrests but I cannot give you the precise information. These incidents occurred in the course of 12 months and I may also say that this is a very disturbed area. Three or four States are meeting here. A dacoit will commit some offence here and run away to the other States, *viz.*, U.P., Vindhya Pradesh and Madhya Bharat. They are all now planning together to get rid of these dacoits.

Shri Radhelal Vyas: Were the Rajputs that were killed in sympathy with the Harijans and because of this sympathy they were killed?

Dr. Katju: That is so. Hon. members will remember that I went out of my way to give the necessary information. Really the State Government is concerned with this.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I admitted this question because it concerns Harijans.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether the Central Government has given any directions to see that special benefits are given to these Harijans?

Dr. Katju: The Central Government is satisfied that the State Government is quite alive to its responsibility and hon. Members will remember that they have set apart actually 2,000 police. 8 companies of police are there to see that complete law and order is restored. There is a punitive police stationed there at a cost of Rs. 2,30,000 which is being paid by the villagers out of which Rs. 2 lakhs have been actually realised.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Research Schemes by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research

***1034. Dr. Amin:** (a) Will the Minister of **Natural Resources and Scientific Research** be pleased to state how many research schemes have been sanctioned so far by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research since its inception?

(b) Is it a fact that some grants were made from time to time to Dr. J. C. Ghosh, the present Director of Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur for some research schemes and if so, what is the total amount allotted to him so far since the inception of the Council?

(c) On how many schemes sanctioned, complete reports have been submitted by him?

(d) How many papers and on what subjects have been published as a result of the work done from these grants?

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) 317.

(b) Grants amounting to Rs. 5,26,639 were made to Dr. J. C. Ghosh and collaborators during the period 1940—51.

(c) Complete reports on all the schemes have been received by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

(d) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VII, annexure No. 6.]

Co-operative Societies in Tripura

***1043. Shri Dasaratha Deb:** (a) Will the Minister of **States** be pleased to state how many co-operative societies are now working in the State of Tripura?

(b) What are their categories?

(c) What is the total membership of these societies?

(d) What facilities do Government give to these societies?

(e) Do Government propose to give special attention to develop co-operative movement among the tribal people and the displaced persons?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) 11 (Eleven).

(b) (i) Agricultural—3.

(ii) Weaving (Cottage Industry)—4.

(iii) Consumers' Stores—1.

(iv) Fishery—1.

(v) Rice and Oil Mill (Industry)—1.

(vi) Agricultural Marketing—1.

(c) 1205 (One thousand two hundred and five).

(d) Four out of eleven societies have been given assistance by way of loans, grant of land, etc.

(e) Yes.

Newspapers in Tripura

***1044. Shri Dasaratha Deb:** (a) Will the Minister of **States** be pleased to state how many newspapers are published in Tripura?

(b) How do Government maintain contact with them?

(c) How many times did the Chief Commissioner, the Chief Secretary and the Community Project Officers call Press Conferences to explain Government policies and schemes?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) Seven newspapers are published in Tripura.

(b) and (c). Editors of the local newspapers are occasionally invited to meet the Chief Commissioner and his officers.

Action against Delinquent Officials

754. Shri M. L. Dwivedi: Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to ensure that action against the delinquent officials is taken promptly and see that Ministries initiate necessary proceedings in each and every case in time in pursuance of the recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee, *vide* serial No. 9, p.322 of the First Report, 1951-52;

(b) in how many cases action has been taken so far and the percentage of cases in which necessary proceedings have been initiated;

(c) whether remedial measures were devised against any defects that may have come to the notice of the Ministries in the course of investigations or otherwise; and

(d) if so, what are they?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): (a) Necessary instructions have been issued to ensure that action against delinquent officials is taken promptly. A copy of the instructions issued is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VII, annexure No. 7].

(b) to (d). The information required is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House when completed.

ADMINISTRATIVE AUDIT

755. Shri M. L. Dwivedi: Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) whether in pursuance of the recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee, *vide* serial No. 12. p.323 of the First Report of the Public Accounts Committee the system of administrative audit has been introduced in any of the Ministries;

(b) if so, in which of the Ministries;

(c) whether any other steps have also been taken by the Ministry to overhaul the "present defective system"; and

(d) the likely extra expenditure necessary for introduction and maintenance of the system?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). The question of introducing in the Central Public Works Department, in the first instance, a system of administrative audit, somewhat on the basis it exists in the Military Engineering Service is under active consideration.

(c) Attempts are constantly being made to restrict budget provision on the most conservative basis and to exercise stricter control over issue of expenditure sanctions.

(d) The extra expenditure on the introduction and maintenance of the administrative audit system in the Central Public Works Department has not yet been worked out, but it is likely to be in the neighbourhood of Rs. 10 lakhs.

LOAN OF AIRCRAFT ENGINEERS

756. Shri Nanadas: Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to refer to the reply to starred question No. 743 asked on the 13th March, 1953, regarding loan of aircraft engineers and state:

(a) the monthly salaries and allowances of each of the foreign experts employed in the Hindustan Aircraft Limited, Bangalore; and

(b) the salaries and allowances of each of the Indian engineers and experts working in the same concern?

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): (a) and (b). I lay a statement on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VII, annexure No. 8.]

EDUCATION OF SCHEDULED CASTES

757. Shri Nanadas: Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) what amount has so far been spent for the education of Scheduled Castes out of Rs. 4 crores set apart for Scheduled Castes under the Five Year Plan: and

(b) how much will be spent in the next three years for the education of Scheduled Castes?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) and (b). The hon. Member is presumably referring to the sum of Rs. 4 crores which has been ear-marked in the Five Year Plan for the amelioration of the conditions of the backward classes. If so, the position is that a sum of Rs. 1 crore, against the total amount of Rs. 4 crores has been included in the budget estimates for the year 1953-54. Out of this amount Rs. 50 lakhs will be spent on Scheduled Castes, Rs. 30 lakhs on ex-criminal Tribes and Rs. 20 lakhs on other backward classes. The details as regards the manner in which the sum of Rs. 50 lakhs would be spent for Scheduled Castes are being worked out.

SYMPOSIUM ON HOUSING

758. Shri M. L. Dwivedi: (a) Will the Minister of **Natural Resources and Scientific Research** be pleased to state whether as a result of the recommendations made by the President of the National Institute of Sciences to form national committees in the various regions to co-ordinate research work on housing as disclosed by him during the symposium on housing held under the auspices of the UNESCO., Government have decided to constitute such bodies?

(b) What advantages or knowledge could be gained by the engineers in charge of the projects as a result of the symposium?

(c) What are the conclusions and recommendations of the symposium, if any?

(d) How many countries participated in the symposium?

(e) What is the expenditure incurred by Government in this connection?

(f) Do Government propose to take any steps in solving housing problems in the light of experience gained during the symposium?

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a), (c) and (f). The recommendations of the National Institute of Sciences based on the discussions at the Symposium have not yet been received.

(b) The symposium served as a refresher course for the Engineers. Architects and others assembled at the meeting and the discussions revealed that many of the difficulties experienced by Engineers in this country could be solved through exchange of ideas.

(d) The following participated in the Symposium:—

(i) Representatives from India, Burma, Ceylon and Indonesia;

(ii) Representatives of International agencies like I.L.O. (International Labour Organisation), W.H.O. (World Health Organisation), F.A.O. (Food and Agricultural Organisation) and T.A.B. (Technical Assistance Board);

(iii) Consultants from England, Israel and Indonesia.

(e) The Government made a special grant of Rs. 10,000 to the National Institute of Sciences for holding the Symposium.

REHABILITATION OF DISPLACED PERSONS IN RAJASTHAN

759. **Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** (a) Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state whether the Central Government have recently sanctioned a sum of money to the Government of Rajasthan for purposes of rehabilitation?

(b) If so, what is the amount sanctioned, for what purposes and what is the machinery for spending this sum?

(c) What percentage of this sum is to be advanced as loans to displaced persons and on what terms?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b). During the current financial year a sum of Rs. 30·65 lakhs has been sanctioned for the Government of Rajasthan. This sum is spent by the State Government for the rehabilitation of displaced persons on the following items:—

(i) Establishment charges.

(ii) Vocational Training of displaced persons.

(iii) Education of displaced persons.

(iv) House building and Urban business loans to displaced persons.

(c) About 78 per cent.

Rs. 20·00 lakhs as house building loans and Rs. 4·00 lakhs as urban business loans. Loans for house building bear 4¼ per cent. of interest per annum and are repayable in 20 years. Urban business loans are repayable in six years with 3⅜ per cent. of interest per year. No recovery of loans is made during the first three years. In urban business loans no interest is charged for the first year.

LIVING CONDITIONS OF DEFENCE SERVICE PERSONNEL

760. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to improve the living conditions of Defence Service Personnel,

(b) the amount spent on welfare schemes and facilities in the three Services separately in 1952-53;

(c) the agencies which administer these funds;

(d) whether any representation is given to the rank and file soldiers in different units in the planning, administration and utilisation of Unit welfare matters and funds; and

(e) if so, whether it is by nomination by the authorities or by election by the soldiers?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) The following steps have been taken to improve the living conditions of the Defence Service personnel:—

Army:

(i) A two-room quarter with proper kitchen is now authorised for married Havildars and Other Ranks whereas one room quarter without a kitchen had been provided to them previously;

(ii) A three-room quarter is authorised for married JCOs in lieu of two-room quarter previously authorised for them;

(iii) No furniture was authorised for JCOs quarters and dining halls for Havildars and Other Ranks. New scales of furniture have now been prescribed to meet essential requirements;

(iv) Prior to 1948, furniture was provided for Service Officers by the M.E.S. only at those stations where hiring from the market was either impossible or expensive. Government have now assumed responsibility of providing furniture for service officers at all military stations and suitable scales have been prescribed for the purpose;

(v) Electric lighting is authorised for living accommodation for service personnel of all ranks at all stations. JCOs, Havildars and Other Ranks are authorised to use free of charge electric fans already installed in barracks and other buildings vacated by British troops. Such fans will be maintained and replaced by the MES when worn out.

Navy:

Efforts are constantly made to effect improvements in the living conditions both ashore and afloat, within the limitations of service requirements, *e.g.*, on ships the essential equipments take up a good amount of space, leaving little room for living quarters.

Air Force:

The Government are providing accommodation to the I.A.F. personnel as far as possible. Recreational facilities and welfare amenities are also provided.

(b) *Army*:

The amounts vary from year to year. The following amounts will give an idea of the expenditure on welfare schemes during the year 1952-53:—

(i) Amenity grants from Defence Services Estimates—Rs. 10,50,000.

(ii) Army Central Welfare Fund—Rs. 1,00,000.

(iii) Flag Day Fund—Rs. 2,68,000.

(iv) Canteen Profits—Rs. 3,57,500.

Navy—Rs. 24,117-9-6.

Air Force—Rs. 56,000.

(c) *Army*:

(i) Amenity Grants—Army HQ, HQ Commands/Officer Commanding Units.

(ii) Army Central Welfare Fund—Executive Committee at Army HQ through Command HQ and Officers Commanding Units.

(iii) Flag Day Fund—Army HQ, HQ Commands/Recruiting Officers.

(iv) Canteen Profits—Army HQ and HQ Commands.

Navy: Commanding Officers of the Ships and Establishments.

Air Force: Officers Commanding of Units assisted by Welfare Committees.

(d) Yes.

(e) In the Army, the planning and execution of welfare matters is done by the units themselves. All ranks are consulted in unit darbars. These darbars are a regular feature of Army life, at which all ranks are free to offer observations, make suggestions and represent any matters. In the other two Services representation is given by election.

CHAMAR REGIMENT

761. Shri Ganpati Ram: Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a Chamar regiment in Central Defence Forces;

(b) if so, the number of soldiers recruited to it;

(c) whether it is a fact that it has been disbanded;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government propose to recruit a fixed percentage to all Forces from the Scheduled Castes and Tribes?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) Yes.

(b) J. C. Os.	20
Other Ranks	919
Non-combatants (enrolled)	42

(c) Yes.

(d) It was disbanded during the general demobilization which followed World War II.

(e) No. The policy of the Government of India is not to discriminate between individuals, or classes. Every one gets equal treatment.

STERLING BALANCES

762. Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of sterling balances due to India on the 14th August, 1947 and at the end of each financial year since then up-to-date;

(b) the major items against which these balances have been consumed;

(c) whether such consumption has been made exclusively in the United Kingdom; and

(d) whether there has been or is any obligation on India to spend these balances in the United Kingdom?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): (a) On the 14th August, 1947, India's sterling balances amounted to Rs. 1547 crores. Later figures are as follows:—

	(Rs. crores)
End of 1947-48	1527
End of 1948-49	944
End of 1949-50	859
End of 1950-51	884
End of 1951-52	723
27th February, 1953	720
13th March, 1953	725

(b) Of the total fall of Rs. 822 crores in the sterling balances, from the 14th August, 1947 to the 13th March, 1953, Rs. 210 crores were transferred to Pakistan; Rs. 296 crores paid to the U. K. Government for the purchase of annuities to meet sterling pensionary liabilities and for the purchase of defence stores, and the balance was utilised for meeting India's balance of payments deficits on current and capital accounts.

(c) and (d). No, Sir.

EXPENDITURE ON CELEBRATION OF REPUBLIC DAY

763. Shri Kelappan: Will the Minister of **Defence** be pleased to state the total expenditure incurred by the Government of India for the celebration in connection with the Republic Day in Delhi in 1953?

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): Approximately Rs. 1,15,000.

CLAIMS FOR MOVABLE PROPERTY

764. Shri Gidwani: (a) Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state the position of settlement of claims for movable property sent to the High Commissioner for India in Pakistan?

(b) How many claims were filed?

(c) What is the value of these claims?

(d) Has any property been restored?

(e) If not, has any payment been made and what is the proportion of the payment to the claims?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VII, annexure No. 9.]

SODE PUR GLASS WORKS

765. Mulla Abdullabhai: Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of interest received on loan advanced to Sodepur Glass Works;

(b) the number of instalments and the total amount received up to the 31st January, 1953 towards loan advanced;

(c) the authorised, issued and subscribed capital of the Sodepur Glass Works; and

(d) the total amount of production and sales during the years 1946 to 1952 and the dividends paid by the company?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): (a) Interest amounting to Rs. 1,72,767-12-6 was received from the Company upto 30th December, 1950. Subsequent payments of interest amounting to Rs. 5,41,232-3-6 are in arrears.

(b) The first instalment amounting to Rs. one lakh which fell due on the 13th September, 1952, has not been paid by the Company. Other instalments have not yet become due.

(c) The authorised, issued and subscribed capital is Rs. 50 lakhs, Rs. 30 lakhs and Rs. 29,10,500 respectively.

(d) The total amount of production and sales in respect of the Sodepur factory—as also dividends paid by the company are as follows:—

Year	Estimates of production during the year	Estimates of sales during the year	Dividends paid	
			Pref.	Ord.
1946	*	*	5%	8%
1947	22,56,921 sq. ft.	18,50,212 sq. ft.	5%	Nil
1948	21,44,099 ,, ,,	21,27,045 ,, ,,	Nil	Nil
1949	4,22,081 ,, ,,	7,91,849 ,, ,,	Nil	Nil
1950	7,57,041 ,, ,,	7,18,525 ,, ,,	Nil	Nil
1951	17,60,460 ,, ,,	18,05,194 ,, ,,	Nil	Nil
1952	Nil	(The factory closed down with effect from June 1951).		

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*Figures in terms of sq. ft. in regard to the estimates of production and sales for the year 1946 are not available.

DELHI PUBLIC LIBRARY

766. Shri Madiah Gowda: Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the object of the Delhi Public Library is also to serve as a training ground for librarians; and

(b) if so, how far this object has been achieved?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

PAYMENTS TO COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS OFFICE

767. Shri K. C. Sodhia: (a) Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state the amount of payment made to the Commonwealth Relations Office of the Government of U.K. during 1952-53?

(b) For what work was this payment made?

(c) What payment is proposed to be made during 1953-54?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri M. C. Shah): (a) £ 90,000.

(b) The statement giving the required information is placed on the Table. [*See* Appendix VII annexure No. 10].

(c) A budget provision of £76,500 has been made for the purpose during 1953-54.

HARIJAN DISPLACED PERSONS

768. Shri Nanadas: Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to refer to the reply to starred questions Nos. 736 and 737 asked on 13th March, 1953 regarding 'Harijan displaced persons from Pakistan to Jaisalmer' and displaced persons resettled in Ganganagar respectively and state:

(a) the total number of displaced Harijans in India at present;

(b) the total acreage of cultivable land, wet and dry, separately allotted to them; and

(c) the total amount of money spent on the rehabilitation of the displaced Harijans since partition of the country?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

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Volume II

No. 15

Friday,

27th March, 1953

सत्यमेव जयते

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

OFFICIAL REPORT

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

CIRCULATED
on
11.XI.53
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PARLIAMENT SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
Price Six Annas (Inland)
Price Two Shillings (Foreign)

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THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Friday 27th March, 1953

The House met at Two of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(*See Part I*)

3-8 P.M.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have to inform the hon. Members that I have received the following letter from Shri Sibnarayan Singh Mahapatra:

> "Due to my continual illness and under medical advice I could not attend any of the sittings of the House.
>
> I most respectfully seek kind permission of the House to remain absent from the meetings of the House till the end of the present session."

Is it the pleasure of the House that permission be granted to Shri Sibnarayan Singh Mahapatra for remaining absent from all the meetings of the House during this Session?

Hon. Members: Yes, yes.

Leave was granted.

Dr. Natabar Pandey (Sambalpur): On a point of order, Sir. You received the letter from Mr. Mahapatra after the expiry of 60 days of his absence.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is true that this was received after 60 days. Is it the pleasure of the House to condone that period also?

Hon. Members: Yes, yes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That was not brought to my notice. Otherwise, I would have put it also as part of the request to the House.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

REPORT RELATING TO THE PURCHASE OF SLEEPERS FOR THE HIRAKUD DAM PROJECT

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report relating to the purchase of sleepers from the Punjab for the Hirakud Dam Project, referred to in reply to Starred Question No. 404, asked on the 18th November, 1952. [*Placed in Library. See* No. IV. M. 4(35).]

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now take up discussion of Demands relating to Planning and Irrigation and Power.

So far as Irrigation and Power is concerned the following Demands are to be moved:

Demands Nos. 61, 62, 63, 64, 129 and 130.

I am told that there is no separate Demand relating to Planning and the provision for the Planning Commission is included in Demand No. 38 relating to 'Miscellaneous Departments and Expenditure under the Ministry of Finance'.

I shall therefore place Demand No. 38 also before the House so as to enable Members to raise discussion on Planning.

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

This Demand will, however, be submitted to the vote of the House along with other Demands for which the Ministry of Finance is responsible on the 7th April, 1953.

I shall now place these Demands formally before the House.

DEMAND NO. 38—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS AND EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

> "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,83,81,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments and Expenditure under the Ministry of Finance'."

DEMAND NO. 61—MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

> "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,28,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Ministry of Irrigation and Power'."

DEMAND NO. 62—IRRIGATION (INCLUDING WORKING EXPENSES). NAVIGATION, EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS (MET FROM REVENUE).

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

> "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Irrigation (including Working Expenses), Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works (met from Revenue)'."

DEMAND NO. 63—MULTIPURPOSE RIVER SCHEMES.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

> "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 41,78,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Multipurpose River Schemes'."

DEMAND NO. 64—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS AND EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

> "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 37,12,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments and Expenditure under the Ministry of Irrigation and Power'."

DEMAND NO. 129—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON MULTIPURPOSE RIVER SCHEMES

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is·

> "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,48,19,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Multipurpose River Schemes'."

DEMAND NO. 130—OTHER CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

> "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,76,74,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power'."

Mal-administration and loopholes in the contract system

Shri Sivamurthi Swami (Kushtagi): I beg to move:

> "That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Irrigation and Power' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Working of the planning administration and the manner in which the plans are made out and executed

Shri Meghnad Saha (Calcutta—North-West): I beg to move:

> "That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Irrigation and Power' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Employment of foreigners in the multipurpose river valley schemes

Shri R. N. S. Deo (Kalahandi—Bolangir): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Irrigation and Power' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Necessity of starting small irrigation works in permanently famine-affected areas especially in Solapur and other Districts in Maharashtra

Shri P. N. Rajabhoj (Sholapur—Reserved—Sch. Castes): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Irrigation (including Working Expenses), Embankment, Navigation and Drainage Works (met from Revenue)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Wastage and corruption in the execution of Multipurpose River Schemes

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri (Berhampur): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Multipurpose River Schemes' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Investigation of Gandikota and Nandi Konda projects on river Kistra

Shri C. R. Chowdary (Narasaraopet): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Multipurpose River Schemes' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Urgency of fully developing the Ghataprabha Project and Koyana to irrigate the scarcity and famine areas of Bijapur, Belgaum, Solapur, Satara and other areas of Maharashtra

Shri P. N. Rajabhoj: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Multipurpose River Schemes' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Slow progress of multipurpose river schemes

Shri Ramachandra Reddi (Nellore): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Multipurpose River Schemes' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Administration and working of different multipurpose river schemes

Shri Meghnad Saha: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Multipurpose River Schemes' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Growing employment of foreign experts and also the growth of foreigners in these schemes

Shri Meghnad Saha: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Multipurpose River Schemes' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Inefficient and haphazard planning of multi-purpose projects and the wastage, corruption and nepotism in the execution thereof

Shri U. C. Patnaik (Ghumsur): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Multipurpose River Schemes' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Nepotism and favouritism in the Central Water and Power Commission

Shri R. N. S. Deo: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Multipurpose River Schemes' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Corruption, nepotism, financial irregularities, delays, wastage and unco-ordinated planning in Hirakud Project

Shri R. N. S.Deo: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Multipurpose River Schemes' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sixth Report of Public Accounts Committee 1952-53 (Hirakud Project)

Shri R. N. S. Deo: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Multipurpose River Schemes' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Economy

Shri Sivamurthi Swami: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Miscellaneous Departments and Expenditure under the Ministry of Irrigation and Power' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Growing expenditure on River Schemes already taken in hand

Shri Meghnad Saha: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Capital Outlay on Multipurpose River Schemes' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The Construction of a new canal to divert the River Cauvery for irrigation, from Mohanoor

Shri Boovaraghasamy (Perambalur): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Capital Outlay on Multipurpose River Schemes' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Extension of electric supply

Shri Boovaraghasamy: I beg to move:

> "That the demand under the head 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All the Demands and the cut motions are now before the House for discussion.

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): May I make a brief statement regarding the report of the Public Accounts Committee?

The Public Accounts Committee placed their report on the Hirakud Dam Project on the Table of the House on March, 25, 1953. I was not aware then that this would be done on the eve of the debate on the Budget Grants of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power. The report is a comprehensive document extending over 66 pages of typed matter and it has not been possible for me in the short time at my disposal to study in detail the entire ground covered by it. But, as many questions covered by the report were already under active consideration I am in a position to announce the decisions of Government on the various recommendations made by the Committee. The decisions are embodied in the appended statement which I am placing on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See* No. IV. O.O.(60a).] It will be seen that we have accepted 16 recommendations out of 22 made by the Committee in full and a part of the recommendation which relates to the bifurcation of the functions of the Financial Adviser and Chief Accounts Officer. The rest of the recommendations are receiving consideration.

I am grateful to the Sub-Committee of the Public Accounts Committee for the thoroughness with which they have discharged the task entrusted to them. In doing so they have simplified my work. But, I should like to make it clear that the acceptance of many of the recommendations of the Committee does not imply that I have accepted or concurred in all the statements made in the report. A fuller examination is necessary before I can form a definite opinion on individual statements affecting the project or the officers connected with the project. As regards the accounting procedure on the Hirakud Project about whose suitability there has been a difference of opinion between the Executive and Finance, I am glad to inform the House that the Comptroller and Auditor General has agreed to visit Hirakud shortly for an 'on the spot' study of the working of the system and his advice after such study will be accepted and given effect to by the Government.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: It will facilitate discussion, if the recommendations that have been accepted by the Government are enumerated on the floor of the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is a long list. I will ask copies to be circulated.

Shri Nanda: They are all here, Sir.

Shri V. P. Nayar (Chirayinkil): Said, the hon. Minister said that the report was placed on the Table of the House only on the eve of the discussion. It was not so. It was placed on the Table of the House two days before. It was so said by the Minister in order to......

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let us not discuss that.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I say this as a Member of the Public Accounts Committee. We have given sufficient time to the hon. Members to study. To say otherwise is a mistake.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Even then, the hon. Minister thinks he had no time to study. He wants more than a week. Let us not discuss this matter.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I would not have submitted this had it not been for the fact that he has tried to create an impression that we deliberately submitted this report to deprive the hon. Members.........

Hon. Members: No, no.

Shri T. N. Singh: (Banaras Distt.—East): I think that is not the intention of the hon. Minister at all in making that statement. Nor did he say like that.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let us not discuss this matter.

Prof. D. C. Sharma: (Hoshiarpur): The report raises many controversial issues. An hour should be set apart for discussing that report.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. Mr. S. V. Ramaswami will now speak.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy (Salem): The present Budget is set within the framework of the Five-Year Plan and therefore all the encomiums that have been paid to the Five-Year Plan apply with equal force to this Budget. I take this opportunity of joining in the chorus of praise that was given to the Five-Year

Plan. Those Chapters particularly which deal with Irrigation and Power are really magnificent Chapters. If only the Ministry of Irrigation and Power could put it through with energy and drive and achieve what it has set for itself in the Five-Year Plan, it will indeed be a very great day for our country.

But that is not to say that the Plan is fully satisfactory or that there is no lacuna in it. It is now my purpose to point out a few lacunae and suggest certain remedies. A cry has been raised in Madras; that is a cry of distress. We have heard that and I wish to bring it to the notice of this House. With your permission, Sir, I shall read out a few sentences from the speech of the Chief Minister of Madras in the Legislative Assembly there. He said:

> "Every one knows only too well that the National Plan so far as we are concerned, has been completely upset on the resources side. Every one knows also that large tracts of our State are suffering from acute distress not only in regard to water but in regard specially to purchasing power to carry it through. Not only the agricultural classes, but every class is affected on account of the situation. It is not right to limit the use of the terms famine and drought only in respect of farmers. Every section of our society which is mainly and fundamentally agricultural, is affected by the agricultural situation. And our difficulties are very great.

Proceeding further, the Chief Minister said,

> "I only wish to say this generally that we have to get funds from the Central Government. The Central Government tell us that they cannot find funds for every State which is in a condition more or less similar to ours and that they have their own limitations. Therefore we have to consider how we can operate on the Central Government in order to overcome our difficulties and how to answer the objections they raise."

Only one passage more, Sir, with your permission.

> "The Chief Minister, explaining why he wanted a strong expression in the House about the need for help from the Centre said, that they were dealing with a Centre which was distant."

I submit that the situation in Madras is really very acute. For six continuous seasons, monsoons have failed. I do not say that any Government is responsible. Nature is against us. Unfortunately, when the monsoon failed, it set about a cycle of distress which we have had to overcome. When the monsoons failed, not merely did the food situation of that part of the country become difficult, but also, it affected adversely the industrial potential of that part of our country. With the failure of monsoons, our hydro-electric systems failed also. There is power cut in some places to the tune of 75 per cent., and most of the mills in Coimbatore are idle for a considerable time. With this power cut machines are idle, and along with that, men are also idle. They receive less wages; their purchasing power goes down, and they are unable to make both ends meet. Consequently, they are also unable to pay taxes. This is the cycle of events that we are facing in Madras. Speaking of power, therefore, it is very unfortunate that because monsoon fails in a particular area, the factories in that area should be shut down or closed or temporarily locked up. I submit that even though we have a well-knit Madras grid which was functioning very well so long as the monsoons were in order, it has failed us because the Papanasam, the Moyur and the other systems inter-linked had too failed, and therefore, the industrial potential of that area had to fail also. Now, I am submitting to the Ministry whether they could not think of an all-India grid. I am putting forth this suggestion in all seriousness. We must link up the entire electrical energy system of this country from Kashmir to Cape Comorin, so that, should there be failure of rains or monsoons in any particular area, the electrical energy that is put out in another area should come forward to supply that area which is suffering from a deficiency. That, I submit, is possible. That is possible provided we do not think in terms of administrative States. That is possible if we think on national lines. The power from Bakhra-Nangal must be available at Cape Comorin. My submission is this. It is true there are technical difficulties. In high voltage transmission, there is a loss of power, no doubt, but I am posing a problem to the National Physical Laboratory which is now tinkering with sun cookers. It should be possible for the National Physical Laboratory—I am a lay man, I am not a scientist, but this much I suggest that it should be possible for the National Physical Laboratory to invent an apparatus by which there could be a beam wireless transmission of high tension power. If only they could find out such an apparatus, it would be equally a magnificent contribution to the unity of this country, so that, instead of depending upon foreign countries for copper wire and all the neces-

[Shri S. V. Ramaswamy]

sary material for the transmission of electrical energy, we can set up these beam transmissions at convenient places, so that we can transmit power from one station to another without the necessity of depending upon foreign countries for copper wire etc.

I submit one other point as well. It is unfortunate that the Centre has not paid attention to the lignite in South Arcot. It is true that they have lent some machine for a five-year plan. I submit that it is not enough, because, unless we quarry lignite, we cannot have more thermal stations, and I submit the imperative necessity that exists for thermal stations in Madras State can be met only by utilizing the lignite deposits in South Arcot. It will not merely help to start more thermal stations and provide more power for industries in the South it will, at the same time, have a revolutionary effect upon the economy of Madras which, with due deference to you, Sir, I submit, has been much neglected. Instead of depending entirely on monsoons and the rains in the Coorg ranges, we should be able to compensate the need for power with the help of these thermal stations. I urge upon the Ministry to go to the help of the Madras Ministry with greater funds, so that the lignite of South Arcot could be extracted within a reasonable length of time and so that also Madras can be started on a furtheer industrial career. In this connection, I would also submit that there is a fall in my district within 30 or 40 miles of Mettur Dam, and that is at Hogenakkal. I submit the Planning Commission should investigate and take that also into consideration, and if possible, set about starting a hydro-electric plant at Hogenakkal.

I come next to irrigation. From the Five-Year Plan I can see that the Godavari has got 84 million acre feet of water of which about 14 per cent. is utilised. The Krishna has 15 million acre feet of which approximately 18 per cent. are used. The Cauvery has got twelve million acre feet, but of this system, more than 60 per cent. is utilized. My friends from Andhra might say why I am talking of Godavari and Krishna. I know. I anticipate it. There is a point. If we think on State lines, of course a Madrasi cannot think of Krishna and Godavari, but luckily the Planning Commission has taken a very broad view, a national view, and with your permission, Sir, I may read a few sentences from their report:

> "………the development schemes of different States have to be co-ordinated to achieve maximum results. Water stored in reservoir in one State may have to irrigate areas in others and power generated in one State is consumed in others. Finally, large projects require financial outlays beyond the resources of the States and cannot be undertaken without assistance from the Centre."

And also there is another passage.

> "Practically all the major rivers of India flow through more than one State. The policy of the Central Government is that the waters of the rivers should be put to the best possible use irrespective of State boundaries. Accordingly, the Central Government is concerting measures to ensure that every river valley is exploited jointly by the States concerned."

It is in that view of the matter that I submit that the Krishna-Pennar Project ought to be given preference so that the waters of Krishna and Pennar are utilised and are made available for Madras State which has now got to depend only upon the Cauvery which is drying up. It would be a great day when the Godavari is linked up with Krishna, and Krishna with Pennar and the waters of these two rivers are taken to Madras State also.

There is one other point. I am one of those who believe that the amount allotted to minor irrigation works is not considerable and it ought to be more. Even according to the figures supplied in the Five Year Plan, for an outlay of Rs. 400 crores, for major irrigation projects, only eight million acres are brought into cultivation. And according to their own estimate, for an outlay of Rs. 77 crores on minor irrigation projects, about 11·5 million acres are brought into cultivation. If that is so, I urge that it stands to reason to provide more funds for minor irrigation works rather than for major ones. I am not saying thereby that major irrigation works are not worthwhile, they are fully worth, and they are magnificent things. But at the same time, I am submitting that more funds should be allotted to minor irrigation works.

For instance, there are five investigated schemes for minor irrigation projects in my own district of Salem, but all of them are held up for want of funds. If only the Centre had found more money for these minor irrigation projects, I am sure, at least one scheme in Salem could have been taken up. There are many such schemes. So far as Madras is concerned, I submit that every drop of water is precious. I would request the Ministry to consider allotting more funds for minor irrigation works in Madras State, so that every drop of water could be conserved and utilised for the purpose for which it is meant.

Shri Meghnad Saha: We have got the Five Year Plan now in operation for about three years. After two years, we adopted the principles. At that time, we were faced with a large amount of material, or as an hon. Member said, with a veritable *mahabharata* and it was not possible for us to go through it very carefully. But now after a few months, it has been possible for us to go through it very carefully and find out what it means, and how it has worked. I shall give you some of my findings.

According to this Five Year Plan, the *per capita* income of the average Indian, which is now Rs. 236 will rise to Rs. 472 in 25 years, in terms of the present rupee. This is on the supposition that the population remains constant and the future Indians do not breed any babies. But if the population does not remain constant, but increases at the present rate, it will be about 54 crores by 1977. And the *per capita* income will be only Rs. 315. This is barely 30 per cent. increase in 27 years in our *per capita* income. Now, these figures tell us stories which nothing else can tell. Let us compare these with the *per capita* income in other countries. The *Eastern Economist* has published a statement of the *per capita* income of some of the countries. The *per capita* income in the United States of America is 1413 dollars, which is 30 times the income of the average Indian at the present time. In Great Britain, it is about 20 times, and I need not give you the other figures. India, of course, is at the very bottom. Our planners attach very little importance to these little points. We all know that our proverty nas been due to British domination, and we had not been able to take advantage of science and technology. But are we going to do so in the present Five Year Plan also? Let us see that. If even after 30 years, the difference in the standard of living between an average Indian and an Englishman remains 20 or 30 times as great as it is now, you cannot call it a Plan. Let us see what a great national leader said in 1942. He said—I will reveal to you the name of that great leader presently:

> "We calculated that a really progressive standard of living would necessitate an increase of the national wealth by 500 to 600 per cent. That was, however, too big a jump for us, and we aimed at 200 to 300 per cent. within ten years. We fixed a ten year plan period for the plan, with controlled figures for different periods."

This is from the 'Discovery of India' by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the Prime Minister. This was written in 1942 in the Ahmednagar Prison Camp. Is it not a far cry from a 20 per cent. increased in ten year to a 30 per cent. increase in 30 years? Are we really going forward, or are we reversing the gear in the national progress?

Now, the Prime Minister had also laid down the priorities. I need not read you all that. He accords the highest priority to food and agriculture, the next highest being to industrialisation. But in the present Plan, there is no plan for industrialisation. It has been relegated to the private sector. Out of a large amount of money, nearly about Rs. 2,000 crores, this Government are going to spend only about Rs. 94 crores from the public sector, and Rs. 234 crores from the private sector on industrialisation. The term 'private sector' of course, means the industrialists. But the directive of the Prime Minister was first an increase in agricultural production, and then an increase in industrial production, and this is what he said:

> "The original idea behind the Planning Committee"—meaning the National Planning Committee—"had been to further industrialisation. The problems of poverty and unemployment, of national defence and of economic regeneration in general, cannot be solved without industrialisation. As a step towards such industrialisation, a comprehensive scheme of national planning should be formulated. This scheme should provide for the development of heavy key industries, medium-scale industries and cottage industries. I am all for tractors and big machines, and I am convinced that the rapid industrialisation of India is essential to relieve the pressure on land, combat proverty raise the standard of living for defence and a variety of other purposes."

This was the priority that was laid down. Now we find that the Planning Commission has evidently forgotten all ideas of industrialisation. They have accepted the industrial plan which was laid down in 1948, and have accepted it, without examining its effects, all these four years. The hon. Prime Minister was here yesterday, and he waxed very eloquent on industrialisation, and said that neither

[Shri Meghnad Saha]

the problem of defence nor the problem of our standard of living can be solved unless we have full industrialisation. But let us see what has happened actually. In industrialisation, the main thing is key industries. Iron and steel industry is the main industry, on which every other industry depends. We have been producing about one million tons of iron since 1939. Our industrialists, the iron and steel magnates, reduced it to 0·8 million tons after the war, and gave reasons which were purely cock and bull stories. The Government at that time acknowledged that our requirements of iron and steel were about three million tons, and the then Director-General of Industries was painstaking enough to plan for our iron and steel concerns, each producing half million tons. And there was a communique from the Government saying 'All our plans are ready, and we shall start all these industries within three months'. Now nearly four years have passed, and nothing has happened. I submit to you, Sir, that there are certain efficient Government Advisers who make plans, but as in the case of Penelope's web, there are some rats, which undo these plans in the dark. We can easily find out who these rats are. These rats are the invisible Advisers of the Planning Commission for Industries.

Now, how much have we lost on account of the non-establishment of the iron and steel factories? On account of the peculiar physical conditions in this country we can produce iron and steel at half to two-thirds of the rate of other countries. The economic price which has been given by the Tariff Commission to the iron and steel industry is Rs. 350. This is to prevent them from making too much profit. But iron and steel from other countries is sold at Rs. 600. So what has happened? Under the pretence of scarcity of iron and steel, we are issuing import licences to several favoured persons—import licences for about half a million tons are issued to favoured persons. They make about 15 to 20 crores of rupees by selling this iron and steel in the black-market. So in this way 15 to 20 crores of rupees are disappearing into the pockets of black-marketeers every year. I have found in the industrial programme which has been published by the Planning Commission that they haev made a really good suggestion, a suggestion which may be developed into 'the turnover tax'. I do not know why this suggestion did not occur to them four years ago. They said we have to find out capital for the iron and steel industries. Well, it is quite possible, because if we produce one million tons, we shall be making this amount at a cost of 35 crores of rupees. We shall charge the consumer the foreign price of Rs. 600 and this Rs. 250 per ton which comes to about Rs. 25 crores per million tons will be utilised in installing a new factory. So that out of the profits you can raise other iron and steel factories. Now, if this idea had struck them in 1949, we would have three or four iron and steel factories and this country would have been making about 100 crores of rupees more and adding to the national wealth. Nothing of the kind has been done on account of the 'rats' which work in the dark and undo your plans.

Now, gentlemen, you might say......

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: 'Sir'.

Shri Meghnad Saha: I am sorry, Sir. Now, we find that the policy which is followed by the Planning Commission with respect to industries is very nebulous. They have shown a lot of concern for the consumer industries. All these capital goods industries, *i.e.* the industries which are responsible for the furtherance of other industries, have been left to the private sector. Is it reasonable. You require for every one of your industries iron and steel. You require aluminium. You require lots of heavy chemicals and so on. I am illustrating by means of an example. Supposing we dig irrigation canals to irrigate our fields. Now, if there is no water in the main river, these irrigation canals cannot fertilise your fields. You are doing the same thing here. You are not having any plans for heavy industries and therefore, all your talk of consumer industries and helping them is absolutely barren. You cannot irrigate a field by means of canals unless there is water in the main river. There is no water in the main river here.

We have been hearing of the Chittaranjan factory turning out a large number of locomotives. Our total need of locomotives is about 2000 within the next five years. And it is a very funny admission on the part of the Planning Commission that the Chittaranjan and TELCO cannot perform their functions because there is no iron and steel in this country! Now, we are in the midst of water and we are still thirsting for water!

No country in this world is so well placed as regards iron and steel as India. This has been testified to by the Coppers Corporation. And other countries which are not so well placed as regards iron and steel have done far better. Japan had a very good iron and steel industry. They depended upon Manchuria. And now after the war that source was cut off. Now, within the last four years they have been able to have an iron and steel industry producing about four million tons, and they are soon having six million tons mostly out of scrap-iron they are exporting out of India.

I can take another example. Take England. After the war they have raised their production of iron and steel from about ten million tons to sixteen million tons. Again America and Soviet Russia. Soviet Russia was in the same position as ourselves in 1920. They produced only half a million tons. And what is their production now? It is about 60 million tons. And how have they done it? Not by calling on every occasion foreign experts. They built up the factory by means of American experts in Magnitogorsk and then they said: 'We can duplicate every factory ourselves'. This is not an idle dream of my own. In the old days of the National Planning Committee we had a very efficient man, the late Mr. P. N. Mathur. He was a top-ranking officer of the Tata Iron and Steel company. He gave us plans for a national workshop, a huge national workshop, where all machinery could be duplicated. Why this pathetic reliance on foreigners, I cannot understand. We can do everything ourselves if our leaders have the sturdy self-reliance which the Russians have got.

Now, aluminium industry. Aluminium has become a key industry. We produce five thousand tons, and in a most wretched manner by famous industrialists. There is an aluminium factory in Alwaye in Travancore-Cochin. This factory gets all its raw materials from Bihar and all these raw materials go from Bihar to Alwaye. And then after the pig aluminium is made there it comes to Calcutta for processing—for being converted into sheets and ingots. We pay Rs. 680 per ton and naturally enough the price of our country-made aluminium is Rs. 2,500 while Canadian aluminium can be bought at Rs. 1,600. So this is the efficiency of our great industrialists! Why should we be dependent for our aluminium on all these foreign concerns? And mind you, this Travancore-Cochin factory is managed by the Canadian Aluminium Corporation which holds the aluminium empire of the world. They own 70 per cent. of the shares and they are keeping such an inefficient factory in this country. That is beyond my comprehension.

Now, an aluminium factory is not difficult to erect in this country. We have got the best of bauxite in Bihar. We shall have very cheap electric power and if you produce 50,000 tons of aluminium per year, we will completely revolutionise many industries in this country.

Take, for example, the tar industry. Take, for example, the explosives industry. We have got no coal tar distillation industry in this country. On another occasion I spoke of the very bad condition of the industries—glass, soda and other things. There the raw material is soda ash. This is a heavy industry. The matter was gone into by the Tariff Commission in 1949. And they say the Imperial Chemical Industries, which hold the chemical empire in India, are selling soda ash in England at between Rs. 140 and Rs. 160. In India the price of the same stuff is Rs. 380. And we are subsidising two very inefficient Indian companies and paying them lots of money out of the consumers' pockets, and the result is that those industries have stopped all manufacture and have entered into secret collusion with those foreign industrialists and they are extorting four times the prices from the Indian consumers. These are facts which I have already referred to. The Tariff Commission said that if we want to have a soda and glass industry and also soap industry, we should have a soda ash industry of our own. They recommended that a factory should be started at Sindri. That was in 1949. Nothing was done and we are being oppressed by all these foreign Chemical Industrial Empires.

Now, the Planning Commission in all its innocence said that our industrialists would start all these capital industries and they would do most of the work. But have they the capital to do so? Only the other day, I was reading the address by the Chairman of the Federated Chambers of Commerce. He said that we could at the most raise 100 crores of rupees per year. One hundred crores of rupees is not sufficient for even a single Iron and Steel Factory. We are subsidising them and we are placing ourselves entirely under their grip. So, I do not think that it is possible for any private industrialist in this country to find out the requisite amount of capital to establish a capital goods industry.

[Shri Meghnad Saha]

We find that this Plan has been very highly applauded by all foreigners. We find that Sir George Schuster, has been brought to this country by our industrialists at their own expense to bless this plan. Poor Sir George Schuster. He was the Finance Member of the Government of India in 1929 or 1930 when the rupee was devaluated and this country suffered enormous losses to save the tottering British economy. Now, such a man is brought to our country to bless the Plan. Are you not ashamed that we should continue such a Plan?

An Hon. Member: Why?

Shri Meghnad Saha: We find that this Plan will keep us producers of raw materials and raw men and our colonial servitude will for ever be perpetuated. If I were to call this Plan by any name I would call it a Bovine Plan. This Plan only cares to give food, it promises to give you sufficient food, whether it would do so or not is a different matter. The cow is content to eat a sufficient amount of grass, ruminate and live in eternal ignorance.

An Hon. Member: Give milk also.

Shri Meghnad Saha: The Plan promises to give us sufficient food, nothing else; no industry, no education, no sanitation, nothing of the kind. So, this Plan is a Bovine plan.

The Prime Minister assured us that if there is anything wrong in this Plan, he will change this Plan for something very new. In all humility, I should say, change the Plan because the present planners and their visible and invisible Advisers have created this moral prison-house far worse in its effects than the Ahmedabad Prison camp.

> 'For lofty walls do not a prison make.
> Nor iron bars a cage.

but a group of unprogressive and reactionary officials and Advisers can erect barriers which cannot be penetrated by any fertilising idea. We call upon the hon. Leader of the House to break these barriers and in that effort to re-shape our future.

Shri Sarangadhar Das (Dhenkanal—West Cuttack): I have very little time, so I will dwell on the Planning Commission for a few minutes. I had said last time that the planners should have gone to the villages and ask the villagers what they wanted, before they made up the Plan. I had occasion, during the last interim period, to visit a community project in my State, Orissa. I found in three or four villages in that project there was not a single one—villager—who was enthused about the community project. I know the area; it is impassable during the monsoon season; even bullock carts cannot go in those roads. But, they say, they are accustomed to mud and water, and mud and water in the paddy fields. So, when they have to go to the headquarters, they do not mind water but their fields are not producing the crops for the last four or five years because of lack of rain. They say, 'we have the river Salandi, which should be dammed and we should be given water for irrigation'. I came to know that the damming of that river would roughly cost Rs. two crores. So, I argued that if the planners had gone there with this project and tried to enthuse the villagers and when the villagers wanted a project requiring an outlay of two crores of rupees then the Planners would have said good-bye. 'We will go elsewhere where they will welcome us, because we do not have two crores and we have only 65 lakhs of rupees." That is all the amount that they have. That is why I say that the planners should have gone to the villagers and found out what they wanted, whether they want this community project or not. I do not mean to say that villagers nowhere want these community projects. There are places where they are welcome; there are places where they are not for various reasons. This is one of them.

I have several times talked about public administration and co-operation. This time I want to say a few words about co-operation. The Prime Minister downwards, everybody talks about co-operation, public co-operation, nowadays. Resolutions are passed and conferences are held, all about public co-operation. My co-operation was solicited by the District Collector of my district in my constituency during the last summer months. Just about a year ago, I went for two or three weeks and located some minor irrigation schemes I submitted 39 of them—I had rejected four or five which were not suitable to my mind. It was just about a year ago and last February, when I visited the Collector. I was told that they were still under investigation. Now, Sir, you will note that this money was sanctioned two years ago by the Centre. The money went to the State two years ago and the schemes for which that money was meant are not yet started. How do you expect self-sufficiency in food in another two years, five years or ten years? I found that the people who have to implement these are different from the people who make up these plans. The plans are easy to make up in the Secretariats, where you have libraries consisting of books from all countries of the world previous files and that is what the Secretariat people are fit [illegible] They are not fit for implementing the Plan. The implementation of the plans, particularly these minor irrigation schemes, is left to the Collector, the Sub-Divisional Officer, the Tahsildar, the overseer. And those people, I found, are not keen about them and do not feel the urgency of it. Consequently they are not being done. So, I felt frustrated after this experience, and I informed the concerned Minister at the Centre, and also the Chief Minister of Orissa, but there is no redress. Then again, in these things, occasionally the plan changes. Originally, about two or three years ago.......

4 P.M.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Gurgaon): Rs. 15 crores have been set apart for this purpose.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: Yes, and from five years from today, it may be that Rs. five crores will be eaten up by some people and Rs. ten crores will remain in your treasury, with no work done. I am glad that my hon. friend interrupted me, because it reminds me of the fact that the Central Government, the State Governments and all Governments in India are interested in appropriating money and afterwards, a year or two having passed, coming and showing how much money has been spent and how much money has lapsed. They are not interested in showing what achievements have been obtained from the spending of the money. It is very funny that the plan has been in operation for two years and yet we do not know what has been achieved in the different sectors.

An Hon. Member: That is your fault.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: Now, I come particularly to the Hirakud project. I had last year criticised certain irregularities and the Minister was kind enough to say that my criticisms had no foundation, but I now see that the report of the Public Accounts Committee fully corroborates whatever criticism I had made about bullocks, about nepotism and about corruption. Everything is there. I am very glad. I congratulate the Public Accounts Committee on having gone thoroughly into those aspects that they have dealt with. They have done a good service not only for the Hirakud project, but for all big projects that we are now going on with or whatever else we may have later. I do not wish to go into the details, but I want to assure the House that it must disabuse itself of the impression that I am against multi-purpose projects. I am not against them. Probably, I have been for having projects of this kind long before some of the Ministers were born.

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): It is too tall a claim.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: As the representatives of the people, it is our duty to see whether it is done properly or not; whether it is done in time or not. I do not wish to go into the past any more.

Now, I notice that in the Savage Report of 1948 there were various things that had been recommended to be done simultaneously with the construction of the dam. On page three of that report, you will find the recommendations about malarial survey, soil survey, the area that has to be irrigated, the reafforestation of the catchment area and so on. As far as I know, none of these things have been done. Lately I have come to know that the Government of India in the Central Power and Water Commission have handed over these aspects of the work to the Orissa Government. Although in the Savage Report it was said that the project itself must be fully reponsible for the overall development of the valley and all these matters, I was told by the project officers as well as the Ministers in Orissa that nothing has been done about reafforestation of the catchment area. There is a lot of agitation by certain people who are in the know that reafforestation is necessary, as they think that the dam will be silted up in less than 15 or 20 years or so if that is not done. Yet, the fact remains that we do not go in for reafforestation of the catchment area, and if we do not go in for reafforestation now, then does it mean that the thousands of square miles of area that are situated in Madhya Pradesh will be bringing silt there, which can be prevented only if we plant trees in the catchment area now. This is one thing.

[Shri Sarangadhar Das]

The next thing is with reference to what I said about Hirakud last December, namely, that there is no co-ordination—or at any rate not very much of it—between the Reclamation Department of the Orissa Government and the project authorities, with the result that lands are reclaimed according to the indications of the project officers, that fifty-three villages would be submerged. They are not submerged yet and people do not go away from there. In the meantime, over some thousands of acres which have been reclaimed the overgrowth is coming up once again. It will have to be cleared when the people go there at the time of actual submersion. I know the hon. Minister will say that there are people in Sambalpur who are inciting the people of the villages that will be submerged not to go to the reclaimed land but to stick on in their present location. So, the time will come when submersion will really take place and they will have to run helter-skelter, probably not getting even the lands that they have a chance of getting now. In that connection, I repeat what I had said before, because I was told last time that the value that is being paid for the lands is not commensurate or adequate. While it is being said by everyone in authority that it is adequate. The Chief Minister in his speech a few days ago said that it is adequate, but the trouble is that some of our Ministers and the officers at different times misguide us. I was told in the Estimates Committee that the value of the land, or rather the compensation, has been raised and that is why the total compensation has come to Rs. ten or eleven crores whereas it was Rs. five crores in 1950. But in Sambalpur, I found that in comparison with 1950 the area that will be submerged is practically double, because the height of the dam was increased during 1950 and 1951 and consequently the compensation to be paid has been doubled from Rs. five crores to Rs. ten crores or Rs. eleven crores. I mean thereby that the rate of compensation has not been increased. I should like to have this point cleared by the hon. Minister. This is one of the reasons for the dissatisfaction.

Looking to the report of the Public Accounts Committee, I must say that the five years of working of this Hirakud project is disgraceful. It is in a deplorable condition, and I fully endorse the view taken by the Committee—although even before the Committee went into this matter I had arrived at the same conclusion in my own mind—namely, that there must be a full-time Chief Engineer present there every minute of the twenty four hours of the day. It is surprising that Government, having taken up a Rs. 100 crore job, have not seen to it that a full-time Chief Engineer is there. This has been so for so many years. I also endorse the Public Accounts Committee's recommendation that there should be a first class Administrator at the head of the organization, who could co-ordinate all the activities and who could look into the overall development of the Mahanadi Valley. Without these this project will never be successful, and it will be simply pouring money and works being done without sanctioned estimates. This kind of thing will go on for ever.

So my final suggestion is that in the future, Government should be careful, not only with respect to Hirakud but with respect to other projects, that proper officers are recruited by competition and not through the back-door and really good Administrators should be put at the top, at the head of the organisation, and the Chief Engineer should be appointed from the very beginning. Sir, you will yourself remember that in regard to the Damodar Valley Corporation, as far as we know, up to the time a Chief Engineer was appointed to be regularly in charge of the Corporation the work was not progressing as well as it should have. There were all kinds of rumours about Damodar Valley also. But we have heard, and I am glad to say that I believe the persons who have told me, that after that Chief Engineer took over charge, things have improved. And we get all kinds of data from Damodar Valley although there is nothing from Hirakud. For instance, in Hirakud the batching plant that has been set up lately which has a capacity of about 200 square yards per hour does not have the auxiliaries—the crushing plant and the screening plant are not erected yet. Consequently it is doing only a very little concrete, and although we have had the project going for five years, not even five feet of real concrete dam have come up yet.

I do not wish to deprive my friend of his time and I conclude.

Shri T. N. Singh: Our friend from Orissa has just now made his contribution to this debate and naturally I listened with great attention to what he had to say about the project of his own home Province. As a Member of the Public Accounts Committee I was certainly interested in listening to the reactions of our colleagues here. I must at the outset pay a whole-hearted tribute to our Irrigation Minister who could rise to the occasion and show real greatness in accepting most of the recommendations of this Committee of the House, at such short notice. I think I am right in interpreting him that he never meant, when he said that he had got only two days' time, that the Public Accounts Committee in any way deliberately placed that Report in such a manner; what he meant to say was that he had very little time to consider the Report and therefore probably that he may not be able to express the Government's view on all the recommendations; and some of them naturally are under consideration even now, I think. By such acts, I think not only he but our Congress Government, which has at its head one of the greatest men not only in this country but probably in the world, has shown what it is capable of, and the esteem, reputation and prestige of the Congress Government has gone up. There might have been mistakes. I want to know who does not commit mistakes. Everyone is liable to commit mistakes. But greatness, balance, wisdom and tact lie in profiting by mistakes and rectifying them. That is the capacity of a live organisation, and I say that our Government has by tackling this problem again shown that it is a vital, live, living thing.

It was our sorry task to look into faults. As the Public Accounts Committee of this august House you have entrusted to us the task of looking into irregularities, looking into faults. We are a fault-finding Committee. I have no hesitation in admitting that. And we have tried to do that. It is an unpleasant job. It is a very difficult job. It is very painful sometimes to sit in judgment, to pass a verdict, to come to decisions where our own fellow workers in the national cause are concerned. I have got every regard for the officials who are working on these. They are, I am sure, putting in a great deal of labour. I would not hesitate to say that we, that is our Committee, received every co-operation from both the Ministries concerned. Papers, documents and all that was needed was made readily available. And the Committee tried to put questions. Sometimes it may be that questions were asked which were unpleasant. But I can assure the House that our Committee approached the whole problem in all humility. We knew that just as our fellow officials might have committed mistakes we are also liable to commit mistakes. We had that view in mind. And I can assure the hon. Minister that we have probed the whole question in great humbleness. We accept the limitations to which human being is subject. But our great Leader, Mahatma Gandhi, has taught us that we should approach every such problem in all humility. Once that approach is there, after that there should be no hesitation in coming to the decision that you feel honestly to be correct. Whatever is written here, I can say that Members of our Committee have assessed everything with great impartiality, great honesty, they have weighted every word. There were 20 sittings, three to four hours every day, and we have been sitting, drafting, redrafting and weighing every word. Therefore for us it would have been very easy to make a rough and ready report but we have not done that. Apart from this, the general question of planning is there. Our great future that lies ahead is there. In that perspective we should view Hirakud, Damodar Valley or any other project. That is the correct approach and I can assure the House as well as the Government that our Committee never lost sight of that approach.

Ours is a poor country. We have got limited resources both in men and money, talent, technicians and in everything. Yet, we have to carry on with these same people and therefore I am not at all sorry if our Indian engineers have committed mistakes. What is there to be sorry about it? We have a right to commit mistakes. That is exactly what we fought for what we aimed at and what we dreamt of. I would ask our officials who are in this task not to be upset by any criticisms that are made. They are made in a friendly spirit. This House is a friend of the officials and the House expects that the officials are its friends and in that spirit, this report should be taken. I am really very glad that our Minister and our Government have made that approach in coming to such a decision on this.

Further I must pay a tribute to the Members who have spoken so far for their restraint and for their wise attitude, particularly in this matter. They have not tried to make any capital out of this. Similarly I would ask others not to involve this report into any other unnecessary

[Shri T. N. Singh]

criticisms or differences. That will not be desirable. That is not the spirit in which this whole report is presented and in which the Government have accepted it. This is the position.

As regards to the work there, there is a lot of difficulty. The climate is unkind, there are difficulties of labour and material, they are struggling against them. But we have got to be judged against ourselves. We have been very harsh judges ourselves. That is what we have done. When we were writing this report we were judging ourselves.

I would certainly take this opportunity to refer in a few words generally about our multi-purpose projects. I am one of those who has always expressed on the greater importance of these small projects. I have always said that our country being so poor, our talents and everything else so limited, it will not only be possible for us to undertake these small projects but those projects will also give immediate results. It is also necessary because we are going on deficit financing for the finalisation of these big projects. In deficit financing you want quick return. If there is a time-lag between the printing of the notes and the returns you get, it is bound to result in a rapidly increasing inflation. That is why I consider that from the financial point of view, if it is considered possible to invest most of our resources on smaller projects, I for one would feel much happier. It is also within our tradition. We have been doing that. The whole Congress movement, what to say of Congress movement, the entire tradition of this country is to go on a small scale. Take any man,—the village entrepreneur who wants to do something. His elder, his father advises him. "My dear son, do not start in a big way, start in a small way". That is the teaching we get from our people and for that reason I would again emphasise that we should spend our resources, men, money and materials on the smaller projects. They will give us quicker returns.

Another thing that struck me about these big projects is that we are so much dependent on the foreigners, on foreign talent, on foreign scientists that somehow when we are up against difficulties, the normal tendency is for each one of us to say, "Why not get someone from abroad, let him solve our problems". Some friends here say let them come from Soviet Russia, others say call them from America. Why? Why should we do that? It is better to commit mistakes and learn by mistakes than to call foreigners. I am glad that at least in Hirakud, except for one or two cases where we tried to consult Americans, we relied on our own engineers. That was the right thing. This is what should be done. As a matter of fact, there are certain controversies about the membership of our Commission, what should be their functions, etc? These are small things. I think the Government is going to try the right thing. You want to get work from our men. What happens? We give a large amount of work, greater responsibilities on the same man. That is not proper. Let us take what we can do. We have referred in this report to certain personnel and what they should do. The entire motive behind that was simply this.

Shri Lokenath Mishra (Puri): Why is the hon. Member so apologetic about his own report—I mean the report of the Sub-Committee of the P.A.C. on Hirakud?

Shri T. N. Singh: I am not apologetic. I want to explain as to why certain things have been done. Nobody should impute any other motive except the motive of fairplay; proper judgment, right approach. This is what we have done. We have also to avoid unnecessary controversy here. That is in the interest of the project as well as the country. This is my objective. Howsoever that might be, I do not want myself to be involved in such things but about this I am very clear and definite.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House would have been glad to know the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee and the manner in which the Government has implemented it. The hon. Member seems to be very apologetic.

Shri T. N. Singh: I am coming to that.

Shri Nanda: He is satisfied........

Shri T. N. Singh: That is what I was coming to.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member must conclude now.

Shri T. N. Singh: We have made certain recommendations as I was saying just now in which we have suggested certain actions against certain individuals and then there are other recommendations. We have recommended certain changes in the responsibilities that are now being put on certain individuals. These are the two sets of things. About one, I am very glad to state that Government have accepted that—I hope the hon. Minister will be attentive—and that action will be taken against the individuals who have been named in this report, especially in regard to the Sleeper and Bullock cases. I think that is No. 1; that has been accepted. I have verified it.

An Hon. Member: What about the root cause?

Shri T. N. Singh: The second thing is in regard to personnel. We are told that Government are considering that proposal, especially as it is tied up with our proposal for the appointment of an Administrator. I am prepared to give them time and I hope the House would readily appreciate the position of the Government in taking a little time to adjust this matter. After all, administrative changes cannot be made overnight. But, so far as responsibility being thrust on one individual is concerned, I think there cannot be any two opinions, any way. I would be really pleased and the House will be happy if the hon. Minister can give a definite assurance that an individual will not be saddled with more than one responsibility. That is what I understand is probably high up in the mind of the hon. Minister though it has not been so categorically announced. I think in this matter at least it should have been possible to take a quicker decision. Because, the Estimates Committee, another Finance Committee of this House, has already made a clear-cut recommendation on this issue. The report of the Public Accounts Committee contains nothing new. There was nothing like any surprise. What I say is, so far as personnel is concerned, against some we have recommended action. That has been accepted by the Government. Against others, we have said that their responsibility should be defined and they should not be saddled with too many responsibilities. There should be one man for one job, as the hon. Mr. Sarangadhar Das from Orissa said. We do not want part-time men. That is not desirable and that is not in the interests of the project. I think the Government will have to take a decision as the PAC has recommended. But, if they want to take time in order to adjust the administrative set up, the House should readily accept that position. So far as I am concerned, I am satisfied that out of the 22 recommendations, 16 have been accepted straightaway. The other five or six require some consideration. There is a recommendation regarding the laying of the Railway track to Ciplima. We have said that it should be dismantled. That is a matter which should be worked out. What is to be done with that, when is the subsidiary dam actually to be taken, all that has to be worked out by the Government themselves. They should certainly take time for that. I have no grievance.

There are two or three recommendations regarding personnel and administrative set up. These are matters of administration and if they want to take time, at least, I for one am prepared to give that time. We have recommended that the Financial Adviser should be a separate officer, that the Chief Accounts Officer should be a separate officer, but under the Financial Adviser. They have accepted that principle. It is stated there: the principle is accepted. As to who should be who, how it shall be worked out, these are matters that they want to consider I think it is quite a legitimate thing and the House cannot have any grievance on that. Nor have I any grievance on that point.

But, I wish to urge one point again. That is, the Estimates Committee has made certain recommendations in regard to the Central Water Power Commission, its personnel, its membership, its Chairman and the duties that have to be entrusted to them. That recommendation has been before the Government. It is surprising that three years have elapsed and nothing has been done. Our Committee has more or less endorsed that recommendation with certain additions: the appointment of an Administrator, etc. I think that should be worked out and Government should have no difficulty in coming to a decision on that point.

Last point, Sir. The hon. Minister said that he does not and cannot undertake to ditto every word that has been said. That is why I have made certain remarks in the early part of my speech. I again say that we approached the whole problem with the greatest humility. We have gone into every detail and we have considered things as a frail human being looking into the conduct of other human beings. That was the attitude that we have adopted. I am sure we have shown every impartiality and objectiveness and if the hon. Minister goes through the report, I think he will be convinced that whatever has been stated has been stated correctly in that spirit and not otherwise.

[PANDIT THAKURDAS BHARGAVA *in the chair.*]

Shri Boovaraghasamy: In moving my cut motions, I wish to point out that the Planning Commission has failed to make a thorough study of the present conditions of our country, especially in the south. People are suffering from famine and drought in many parts of our country, especially in the south. I suggest that more money should have been allotted and more irrigation schemes proposed for construction so that we may produce more foodgrains. In the south, the soil is fertile. Besides, there are a large number of irrigation tanks and wells. But, these tanks and wells are dry, especially in the dry season, even people and cattle are unable to get drinking water. They have to go more than a mile for drinking water. Such is the condition in South India. But, there is the river Cauvery. Only 60 per cent. of its water is utilised for irrigation according to official statistics, and the remaining 40 per cent. water goes waste to the sea. The river Cauvery takes its source from Mysore, and passes in a zig-zag manner through Salem District, Coimbatore District, Trichy District and Tanjore District, and then enters the Bay of Bengal. I suggest that at Mohanur, situated between the border of Salem District and Trichy District near the Cauvery, a canal may be dug by which the Cauvery water can be diverted for irrigation eastwards. This canal may run through Mohanur, Mettupalayam, Thorayur, Perambalur, Ariyalur and Udayarpalayam Taluk covering a distance of nearly 100 miles in Trichy District. We can easily fill up those large number of irrigation tanks by diverting the Cauvery water by this canal. By this canal, nearly half a million acres of land can be brought under irrigation, and the entire food scarcity of Tamil Nad can easily be solved. And it can be constructed at a relatively low cost, of the order of Rs. two or Rs. three crores. I think it is a very small amount when it is compared with the hundreds of crores incurred by the North Indian projects. The people may also be willing to pay any extra taxes.

Then, I come to electric power. Electric power is one of the most important needs of the modern world. It is most essential for irrigation. There are in India only 3,000 villages which are provided with electricity out of 560,000 villages approximately. In my constituency, in Udayarpalayam and Perambalur Taluk of Trichy District, even big places are not at all provided with electricity. Therefore, I request that immediate steps should be taken to provide that area with electricity. It is a very backward area.

Then, I want to speak a few words about health. It is very unfortunate we have no discussion on health. Nowadays, people are suffering and dying, especially in rural areas, for want of medical aid, and the Government say that the required number of qualified doctors are not available. I suggest that, in view of the availability of a large number of Ayurvedic doctors, they may be engaged to render medical aid in rural areas provided they are found eligible, qualified doctors as L.M.Ps., L.I.Ms., and such others with degrees and diplomas are concentrated only in urban areas. It is essential that each area with a population of 1000 in rural areas must have a recognised doctor so that in times of emergency the people will not only get timely assistance but also advice if the case is a complicated one.

I conclude with my request to the hon. Minister for Irrigation and Power and this House to pay special attention to the irrigation scheme I suggested, *i.e.*, the construction of a canal diverting the Cauvery water from Mohanur to Mettupalayam, Thorayur, Perambalur, Ariyalur and Udayarpalayam. I can assure that by this canal South India will become a surplus area. And let it not be thought, that I am too much provincial, but provincialism has to be encouraged. Such a regionalisation of benefit in all provinces will lead to greater production and increased national wealth.

Shri A. M. Thomas (Ernakulam): I have very great pleasure to support the Demands moved today. The Demands for the Ministry of Planning, Irrigation and Power that we are now discussing are of paramount importance, and deserve our special study and attention. As we are all aware, the expenditure envisaged by the Plan which this House has accepted, takes a little over 27 per cent. under irrigation—multi-purpose irrigation and power projects and power. Roughly it takes in under these heads Rs. 561 crores out of Rs. 2,069 crores. But provision for the projects in the period of the Plan comes to Rs. 518 crores. We have estimated in the Plan, as finalised, to bring an additional area of 8.5 million acres under irrigation and to generate 1·1 million k.w. of additional power. It is in the light of these figures that we have to approach these Demands moved today and to view them in a critical way.

I shall first deal with one criticism which has been raised in this House by the scientist Member of our House. Dr. Saha. He said that the allotment in the Plan towards industrial projects is quite inadequate, and that will keep us as a backward country for a number of years to come. When divided into watertight compartments, the allotment for the industrial programme is only 8:54 per cent. of the total allotment. But I would humbly state that critics, when they find fault with this inadequate allotment for the industrial development of the country, have to take into consideration, our multipurpose projects too. It is wellknown that cheap electric power is taken as a fundamental requirement for the industrial development of any country. The quantity of electricity consumed *per capita* in any country is taken as an index of the material and industrial development of that country. Adopting this standard, we get an idea of the primitive and unorganised nature of our economy. What was the position, when we attained independence? The figures given in some of the publications are an eloquent testimony of our backwardness. I will cite for the information of the House some figures. The consumption of electricity *per capita* in India is only 14 kwh. as against 3,536 kwh. in Canada 2,400 kwh. in Sweden, 2,290 in U.S.A., 2,024 in Norway and 1,688 in Switzerland.

Another significant feature, as far as we are concerned, is that even with regard to the provision of electrical energy, Calcutta and Bombay, with a total population of one per cent. of the whole country, between them, consume half of the total electrical energy. The progress in rural electrification is practically nil, except in a few places such as Madras, Mysore, and Travancore-Cochin, and about the last I will have to make a reference later on. We have before us a report of the progess made in the execution of the various projects, in the literature supplied by the Ministry of Irrigation and Power, and the position is so graphically described in the explanatory memorandum. They constitute a magnificent record of which any country may feel proud having regard to the short period which had elapsed after starting these and the various drawbacks under which we were working. But curiously enough, we are apt to exaggerate the defects and the shortcomings. The financial control is coming up for a great deal of criticism. Of course, we must be watchful and zealously guard the interests of the public. The Public Accounts Committee has exposed several of the irregularities in its report concerning the Hirakud project, for which, including that in the current year, we would have spent about Rs. 27 crores. We have budgeted for an expenditure of Rs. 11:72 crores in 1953-54. I am not, for a moment, minimising the incompetence displayed in its operations. We have, however, the assurance of the hon. Minister who had occasion to make a stay of about 13 days on the spot and make a detailed inquiry I will just quote from a press statement which he has issued, and that will be a sufficient assurance as to the interest that he has taken in regard to the complaints raised in regard to the Hirakud Project. He said:

> "I am aware of the suspicions which have been aroused, and I have been looking into all these matters during the 13 days that I have spent here. I have also not lost sight of the fact that the Government felt itself impelled to start the project without delay, and in the earlier stages, things have happened which must cause concern and regret. But as far as I can judge, their total effect, in relation to the size and magnitude of the project, is not of much significance."

I would like to emphasize that little advantage is gained by this *post mortem* examination of the Public Accounts Committee. Steps should be taken to prevent a recurrence of such happenings.

When we consider the river valley projects, we cannot ignore the D.V.C. project. Recently I had occasion to visit and see for myself with some other colleagues, the scene of activities of the D.V.C., and what I have seen there has deeply impressed me. I would earnestly appeal to my hon. friends in the Opposition that there is no reason to doubt the report of our tremendous achievement. The foreign experts and visitors regard it as one of the biggest constructions in the world. "The River of Sorrow', as the Damodar river used to be termed, has now been converted into a river of happiness and prosperity. The sentiments expressed by the Prime Minister at the opening of the Tiliaya dam and the thermal station at Bokaro, are completely justified. He stated:

> "Lakhs of people in both Bihar and West Bengal suffered extensive loss and misery every year because of floods in the Damodar river. The people in the villages

[Shri A. M. Thomas]

> need no longer be afraid of famine drought. They are assured of an ample water supply throughout the year. Cheap electricity will not only illuminate their houses, but will go a long way towards the industrialisation of an important area."

I do not want to weary the House with regard to the report of the progress made so far. This is all contained in the publications supplied to us.

I would like to refer to one criticism that has been made here, and has been confirmed by the hon. Mr. T. N. Singh, and that is with regard to foreign assistance. We cannot afford to lose lakhs and lakhs of rupees, experimenting with our indigenous talent. We have also to take into consideration foreign assistance in this connection. There is the assurance of Mr. Sarangadhar Das himself that with regard to the D.V.C. project, the appointment of the new chief engineer has done a great deal of good, and that person himself has reported that in the case of the Tiliaya dam, indigenous talent also has contributed a great deal.

Shri Meghnad Saha: May I interrupt the hon. Member for a minute, Sir? A foreigner was asked to construct the dam, and he constructed an earth dam at the Tiliaya dam, at a cost of a crore of rupees, which was washed away by the rains.

Shri A. M. Thomas: When we consider the Plan from a regional standpoint, I am inclined to agree with some of the cut motions that have been moved, namely that the south has been neglected in the matter for these projects. When I go into the Irrigation and multipurpose power projects that have been started in my own State of Travancore-Cochin, there are as many as five or six projects. But I may mention for the consideration of the hon. Minister, that all these projects were started there before the Plan itself, and in continuation, some assistance, is given under the Five Year Plan. That is all. But that is quite inadequate, compared with the problems concerning my State, and there is only a total allotment of Rs. 27 crores to that State, with a population of 92 lakhs.

I would urge upon the hon. Minister to consider some of the schemes which are now being mooted there; there is one important scheme, namely the Iddiki scheme, that is well worth pursuing, and if it is pursued, the complaints with regard to the neglect of the south can also be met to a certain extent.

श्री सी० के० नायर (बाह्य दिल्ली) : सभापति जी, आपने मुझको इतना समय दिया इस के लिये मैं आपका शुक्रिया अदा करता हूं ।

मुझे दिल्ली के इर्रिगेशन के बारे में कुछ बातें कहनी हैं । मैं आम तौर पर संसद् में नहीं बोला करता हूं । मेरे पास काम काफी से ज्यादा रहता है, लेकिन इस वक्त दिल्ली के इर्रिगेशन के बारे में कुछ कहना बहुत मौज़ूं समझ कर मैं इस मौके से फायदा उठाना चाहता हूं । ज्यादा शिकायतें दक्षिण की स्टेट्स में से आती हैं कि दक्षिण की स्टेट्स को बहुत ज्यादा इग्नोर किया गया है, उन के साथ ज्यादा बेपरवाही बरती गई है, लेकिन मेरे ख्याल में दिल्ली स्टेट को सब से ज्यादा इग्नोर किया गया है इन तमाम रिवर वैली प्रोजेक्ट्स में । मिसाल के तौर पर दिल्ली की कुल साढ़े तीन लाख एकड़ जमीन है, इस से कुछ ज्यादा ही, यानी ३६४ हज़ार एकड़ है । इस में से कुल ३६ हज़ार एकड़ जमीन को वेस्टर्न यमुना केनाल से पानी मिलता है और वह भी जितना मिलना चाहिये, कोटे के मुताबिक,

5 P.M.

उससे आधा मिलता है । और आधा मिलने पर भी पूरा आबियाना चार्ज किया जाता है । यहां इन ३६ लाख एकड़ के बाहर एक लाख एकड़ ज़मीन ऐसी पड़ी हुई है जिस के लिये पानी की सख्त ज़रूरत है । दिल्ली के चारों तरफ़ ग्रीन बैल्ट और मिल्क फार्म्स बनाने की बड़ी बड़ी स्कीम्स हैं लेकिन मैं ताज्जुब करता हूं कि यह तमाम चीजें पानी के बगैर कैसे की जा सकती हैं । आप ताज्जुब करेंगे कि भाकरा प्रोजेक्ट के नीचे दिल्ली को एक क्यूसैक्स पानी भी नहीं मिलता है । यह

कितने ताज्जुब की बात है कि जब दिल्ली को पंजाब के सिवाय और किसी सूबे से पानी नहीं मिल सकता है तो पंजाब के सब से बड़े डैम से न सिर्फ पंजाब के बल्कि सारे हिन्दुस्तान के सब से बड़े डैम से, बल्कि मैं ने तो यहां तक सुना है कि यह दुनिया का सब से बड़ा डैम होगा, दिल्ली को एक कतरा भी पानी नहीं नसीब़ होता है। इसकी क्या वजह है। इसकी वजह यह है कि सब से पहले जब भाखरा डैम के पानी का बटवारा हो रहा था उस वक्त पंजाब पेप्सू और राजस्थान के नुमायन्दों ने बैठकर इस का बटवारा किया और दिल्ली को बिल्कुल इगनोर किया गया। दिल्ली के चीफ़ कमिश्नर को इसकी कोई परवाह नहीं थी। न हमारी होम मिनिस्ट्री ने इसकी परवाह की जो कि दिल्ली के लिये ज़िम्मेवार है। मैं इस काम को क्रिमिनल समझता हूं कि इस सूबे के साथ इतनी बेपरवाही की गई। जब कि हमारे सूबे का पूरा हक़ है भाखरा डैम से पानी लेने का तब इस प्रकार उसे पूरे तौर पर इगनोर क्यों किया गया। इसकी पूरे तौर पर तहकीकात होनी चाहिये। मैं मानता हूं कि अब भी बहुत ज्यादा वक्त नहीं गुज़र गया है। अब भी इस मामले की पूरी तहकीकात करनी चाहिये। हम ने पढ़ा है कि भाखरा डैम से ६·५ मिलियन एकड़ यानी ६५ लाख एकड़ ज़मीन को पानी मिल सकता है। दिल्ली को तो सिर्फ एक लाख एकड़ ज़मीन के लिये पानी की आवश्यकता है। इसमें से ६५वां हिस्सा पानी दिल्ली को मिल जाय। अगर ऐसा हो तो दिल्ली सारे हिन्दुस्तान का एक शानदार बाग बन सकता है जिसके अन्दर न सिर्फ हिन्दुस्तान के चारों तरफ से यात्री लोग आते रहते हैं बल्कि सारी दुनिया के लोग आ कर दिल्ली शहर के बाहर जाना चाहते हैं और यह देखना चाहते हैं कि यहां के देहात की क्या हालत है। वहां उन को उल्टी स्थिति नज़र आती है। जितनी दिल्ली खुशहाल है और सुन्दर है और आराम में मस्त है उतने ही हमारे देहाती लोग तकलीफ़ और दुःख में मस्त हैं। क्योंकि उन लोगों को पानी नहीं मिलता है। जिस एक लाख एकड़ ज़मीन के बारे में मैं कह रहा था उसके नीचे का पानी खारा है, खेती के लायक नहीं है। बेशक हमें नांगल प्रोजेक्ट से बिजली मिल रही है। उस बिजली से अगर हम चाहें तो ट्यूब वैल्स कायम कर सकते हैं। लेकिन जिस एरिया के बारे में मैं कह रहा हूं उस एरिया में ट्यूब वैल्स कारआमद नहीं हो सकते क्योंकि वहां का पानी खारा है। इस वजह से उस पानी से उस ज़मीन को फायदा नहीं हो सकता। नम्बर १ और नम्बर २, वही ज़मीन बहुत बड़ा सरफेस है। उस में नहर का पानी अवश्य मिलना चाहिये और मेरी समझ में नहीं आता कि भाखरा प्राजेक्ट से पानी क्यों नहीं मिल सकता हर हालत वहां पानी अवश्य मिलना चाहिये। यह मेरी प्लानिंग मिनिस्टर से एक पुरजोर अपील है। दिल्ली के पानी के बारे में जितनी बेपरवाही की गई है उसकी तहकीकात करें और जो भाखरा डैम ६५ लाख एकड़ ज़मीन को पानी दे सकता है उसमें बचाकर किसी प्रकार दिल्ली के एक लाख एकड़ को पानी ज़रूर देना चाहिये। उस वक्त हम दिल्ली के चारों तरफ़ ग्रीन बैल्ट सुन्दर तरीके से बना सकेंगे। बगैर पानी के दिल्ली में कुछ काम नहीं हो सकता क्योंकि नीचे का पानी खराब है।

दूसरे दिल्ली की हालत इतनी खराब इसलिये भी है कि दिल्ली में एक इरीगेशन डिपार्टमेंट तक नहीं है। इरीगेशन यूनिट न होने की वजह से और हमेशा पंजाब के साथ जुटा रखने की वजह से दिल्ली को हमेशा तकलीफ रही है। नहर के सिलसिले म जितनी शिकायतें थीं उनको कोई सुनने वाला नहीं है क्योंकि हमारा मुहकमा नहीं

[श्री सी० के० नायर]

है। हमें हर बात में पंजाब के पास जाना पड़ता था। सीलिये मेरी दूसरी प्रार्थना यह है कि दिल्ली में एक इरीगेशन यूनिट अलग बन जाना चाहिये जो कि हमारी इरीगेशन की ज़रूरियात को अच्छी तरह से अध्ययन करे और उसको पूरे तौर पर इम्पलीमेंट करने की कोशिश करे।

और तीसरी चीज़ मुझे यह कहनी है कि दिल्ली में एक सीवेज फार्म है ओखले के पास। उस में भी ढाई हज़ार एकड़ ज़मीन की आबपाशी होती है लेकिन क्योंकि हमारा कोई इरीगेशन डिपार्टमेंट नहीं है इसलिये वहां के आबयाने के असेसमेंट का तरीका बहुत गलत है और उसको साइंटिफिक तरीके से नहीं किया जाता है। सुना है कि वहां और ज्यादा ज़मीन को काश्त में लेकर उस फ़ार्म को ऐक्सेंटेंड करना चाहते हैं। इसलिये म इस तरफ गवर्नमेंट का ध्यान खींचना चाहता हूं। सब से पहले वहां एक इरीगेशन यूनिट हो और दूसरी चीज़ यह कि दिल्ली के लिये भाखरा डैम से पूरा पानी हासिल करने की कोशिश की जाय। यह कह कर मैं चेयर को शुक्रिया अदा करता हूं।

Shri C. R. Chowdary: The Five Year Plan proposes to include a project to be taken up on the River Krishna during the latter part of the Plan period or in the early part of the next Five Year Plan. The River Krishna has got 50 million acre feet of water out of which 18 per cent. is utilised now. About six million acre feet of water, it is estimated to be utilised, under the Tungabhadra project that is to be completed in June next. The high leavel cannal that is proposed is yet to be taken up. Any scheme for utilisation of the same must be planned and executed with great care and caution. One must not play with the Krishna waters motivated by ulterior purposes with resultant loss of national resources. The Krishna Valley will be deprived of its waters if the Krishna waters are permitted to be played with. The Krishna Valley has got abundant land resources. The Plan itself says it. Further, the Krishna Valley is thickly populated. The kind of agriculture that is practised there is primitive, and also the returns are poor. The Krishna Valley, as a matter of fact, has got only 0 to 25 inches of varying annual rainfall and every year either one part or other of the Krishna Valley is affected by famine. To relieve and improve the present condition there and develop agriculture it is necessary to have a project there. Therefore, when schemes were under consideration as to which of the projects must be taken up, the Central Government appointed an Expert Committee to go into and examine the various projects proposed by the concerned Governments. The Hyderabad Government has investigated in full the dam site and the canal on its side, that is the left side canal. They proposed the Nandikonda project to be taken up immediately by the Centre or the Centre may help the Hyderabad Government in taking up that project. But the Madras Government proposed a plan which is called the Krishna Pennar Plan and this plan was rejected on scrutiny and examination by the Expert Committee as it was found to be most unproductive. The Khosla Committee, on a scrutiny of the estimates presented by the Hyderabad Government approved the Nandikonda project and recommended the project to be placed in the Five Year Plan. But this report was attempted to be suppressed from the time it came to the notice of the Planning Commission. It was done by vested interests. The authorities refused to publish the interim report. Then, there was an agitation which was conducted by not only one section of the Andhras but by the entire Andhras who demanded the publication of the Expert Committee Report. Having felt the pressure from all quarters of the Andhra for the publication of the Khosla Committee report, the authorities concerned made it public. After this Committee Report was before the Planning Commission, they wanted to delay the implementation of the recommendations of the Khosla Committee and called for a conference of Engineers of the States concerned. On 8th December, 1952, the Conference agreed on certain issues. As per the recommendations of the Khosla Committee, it was agreed that a complete investigation of the right side canal that is on the Madras side, must be made before the work is taken up. The time was fixed as ten months for

submission of the report after investigation. But the Madras Government is now conducting the investigation in such a way that it is being objected to at all points by the riparian owners there. It appears that the investigation is not as proposed by the Khosla Committee; it is highly suspicious. This investigation is expected to take them up to October. People are suspicious of the investigation. At one time it was said that the Madras Government was not intending to take up the Nandikonda project and they said they had nothing to do with that. At another time it was said that the Nandikonda project was proposed by the Hyderabad Government and the Madras Government has nothing to do with it and they said, 'we shall have the data from the Hyderabad Government'. At another time it is stated 'the issue of separation of the Andhra State is there, why not you wait till then when it is separated, the Andhra State will take it up'.

Now, curiously enough, it appears that the Planning Commission wants to delay this project and avoid the inclusion of this project in the Five Year Plan. In the report that is circulated today, it is said:

> "Among the new projects which are proposed to be taken up for investigations in the coming year will be some in the Krishna Godavari and Pennar Basins. Investigations on these river basins will be in accordance with the recommendations made by the Khosla Committee appointed by the Planning Commission."

The Planning Commission, at a meeting held on the 20th January, 1953, have approved of the following investigations to be carried on during the period of the Five Year Plan. Item No. 2 is:

> "Investigations regarding development of Krishna and Godavari Basin as recommended by Khosla Committee report to be started."

That is, now, the intention of the Commission is not to finish the investigation as per the directives issued at the Conference held on 8th December, 1952, but to start investigation during the Plan period: that means investigation will take them to the end of the Plan period. I do not know what made the Commission to change its view. I do not know what made the Commission to take two and a half years to complete the investigation that was decided upon to be completed in ten months. This is the kind of bureaucratic planning we have. This is going back on the word given and this will lead to disastrous results. It is not safe, I say, to say one thing and then go back upon it. This is a deliberate attempt to delay the inclusion of the Nandikonda project in the Five Year Plan, which cause help relieve the famine conditions not only in Krishna valley but also to a marked extent to develop the industrial potentialities of Rayalaseema. They say in the Plan that development of agriculture will have the highest priority. But this delay means that it is not really the intention of the Planners to see that highest priority is given to it.

I have to point out one aspect on this matter. This Nandikonda project is a combination of many schemes. Siddhasjram Naudikonda and Puhchintala this will cover the entire Krishna Valley. There is another part of it which is called Gandikota. It is also an essential part of the same scheme. But the Madras Government, in its anxiety to push through unproductive schemes of its own, the Krishna Pennar project, represented the Gandikota project to the Khosla Committee as a rehabilitation project under K. P. plan. When the Krishna Pennar project was rejected as unproductive the Gandikota project was also rejected by the Khosla Committee not because, it was, on its own merits found bad, but because K. P. plan was rejected. Therefore great injustice is done to the Rayalaseema people by not including the Gandikota project in the scheme of the Khosla Committee. Therefore, the error that has been committed may be rectified and Gandikota may be made part of the Nandikonda project. This project may be recommended for inclusion. in the Five Year Plan and work may be taken up immediately.

Shri C. Bhatt (Broach): I am rising to support the Demands under the Ministry of Irrigation and Power. I am speaking for the first time after waiting for a long year, and I thank you for the opportunity you have given me. I crave the indulgence of the House also, and trust that it will bear patiently with me and hear me also patiently. During the one year I have been here, I have been hearing orations, and every time I am reminded of a saying in Gujarati:

गोलो गोलि लड़े दे बचे डाना कान पीसोके

[**Shri C. Bhatt**]

There is a story about it. A husband and a wife belonging to the earthenware-producing community quarrelled amongst each other. The wife wanted to abuse the husband and the husband wanted to abuse the wife. We find more or less a similar phenomenon in this House. The Opposition wants to abuse the Government and the Government wants to say something in reply to the Opposition.

Shri V. P. Nayar: But who is the husband?

Babu Ramnarayan Singh (Hazaribagh West): And who is the wife?

Shri C. Bhatt: Please bear with me patiently, and I will tell you that also.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Or is it still a matter of doubt?

Shri C. Bhatt: As I was saying, the husband and the wife wanted to abuse each other. There must be some object in common; so, they found out a donkey. One got to the right and the other to the left, and each of them took the donkey's ears and began twisting them, and abusing each other. This process went on endlessly to their heart's content. The same phenomenon we see here also. The Opposition every now and then proclaim that they want the Five Year Plan to be put into operation, but just like the animal in the story, the officers are the sufferers. They are always found fault with. The poor services are made to tool between the Government and the Opposition. The Opposition is always twisting the ears of the officers every now and then.

Now, I come to the point. All over India there are so many schemes, but the unhappy and unlucky district of Broach is not mentioned anywhere and the Narbada Project is absolutely left out. During the last fifty years, we have had several famines and scarcities, mostly due to either insufficient or want of timely rains. But absence of timely rainfall was not the only source of trouble. We have two rivers in the shape of Narbada and Dhadhar, which occasionally cause distress to my constituency by their floods. Over and above just mentioned causes, frost is also substantially responsible for bringing calamity to our agriculture. Locusts also play their part and add to our calamity. From the Famine Report of the Government of Bombay, during the last fifty years, we had famine and scarcity seven times: 1899-1900; 1901; 1911; 1918-1919; 1920-21; 1948-49 and 1951-52. Then we had floods six times: 1927-28; 1929; 1934-35; 1942; 1944 and 1945. We had frosts three times: 1929-30; 1934-35: and 1939. Locusts afflicted us during 1930-31 and 1950-51. At this juncture, I should express my feeling of gratitude that whenever there was a calamity, the present Government has tried its best to relieve and mitigate the distress of the people, as much as it could; yet I regret to say that though it has done its best to afford relief, practically nothing has been done to prevent the distress. Here, I request the hon. Minister in charge to prevent the disease itself and thus avert the periodical calamity that comes to my constituency.

When the other schemes were being included in the Five Year Plan, I do not know how the Narbada Project was overlooked. Narbada is a long river, having a 700 miles course, and it has great potentialities. I have got here the Report of the *ad hoc* Committee in connection with the investigations of the river valley projects. It is a Government document. This is what it says:

> "The Narbada river has hitherto been considered as useless for being exploited for either irrigation, power or navigation, the latter beyond a small distance above its outfall into the Gulf of Cambay. In its course through the Broach district of the Bombay Presidency it frequently overflows its banks."

This gives a brief description of the river. Then the report goes on:

> "A study of the topography has revealed that excellent storage sites exist both on the main river and on some of its tributaries were by constructing dams of medium heights, reservoirs of varying capacities can be formed to hold back the excessive precipitation of rain during monsoon months and utilise the supplies for purposes of perennial irrigation, power generation, extension of navigation, fish culture and supplies for domestic uses all over the basin."

The report itself says that the investigation is complete and the project reports are being prepared. So, everything is ready. Here and now I make an offer to the Minister in charge that if the Centre plays its part, if the State also plays its part then the people will play their part and give whatever help they are required to give. Not only that, but after getting an assurance from the people, I stand here to say that if the Government wants money from the people, let them fix whatever quota they desire, and I am prepared to go to the people and beg from door to door and collect the money from my constituency. In any case. I want to see that the Narbada River Valley Project is taken up and completed. I request the Minister in charge to include this project and start work as soon as possible.

Shri Natesan (Tiruvallur): I would be as brief as possible because the debate is drawing to a close. First of all I would like to deal with the Damodar Valley system in so far as power supply is concerned. Here I have got a pamphlet called 'Damodar Valley Project: Its Programme, Progress and Perspective'. I find here an article by Dr. Sudhir Sen on why a thermal station has been put in Bokaro. If the facts are as stated and if this is really not intended for publicity, I consider that the Damodar Valley scheme has been a great achievement. But I find that the Bokaro Thermal Station will eventually have an installed capacity of 150,000 kilowatts. This represents a very large block of power and I cannot imagine that all this power can be consumed within the next four or five years. What I mean is there may not be a sufficient demand for all this block of power. And, apart from this, the Damodar Valley is also having a surplus power to the extent of 25.000 to 30.000 kilo-watts. I consider that before you have installed a large bulk of power you must see to it that arrangements are made for industries to come in so that all this block of power may be utilised.

I find in the same leaflet, in the shape of a message from the Chairman that "a complete scheme of insulation factory is ready". I should also refer to a small column which appeared in the *Madras Mail* about Mr. Walter Weldon, an American expert having left for India as United Nations Technical Assistance expert to advise the Indian Government on the setting up of a new plant for the manufacture of high tension insulators. With all the schemes on hand here, we have been importing such a lot of high tension insulators from all over the world, probably from Japan, America and England, and it is therefore absolutely necessary that you must see to it that this insulator business goes through as early as possible. Already we are importing a lot of fabricated steel. I found in the D.V.C that all the steel came from either England or Italy. Of course there is a demand on the part of all Members that we should not send our money to foreign countries, but it so happens that on every project we have to send our money outside for all the purchase that we have to make because we are dependent for everything on foreign countries. Therefore, if at least the insulator business goes through I shall be satisfied for the present.

Then in the case of Bhakra-Nangal it is proposed to have initially two power houses each having a capacity of 24,000 kilo-watts. I again consider that these are all over-optimistic ideas on the part of our experts. Well, I know that so far as the Power Wing is concerned there are excellent experts there, but I do not know how they have reconciled themselves to the fact that so much of power will be required in such short time.

Here in page 81 of the Explanatory Memorandum I find there is a tremendous provision made for electricity, four units of 93,000 kilo-watts on one side and eight units of 93,000 kilo-watts on the other side, and two power houses with three units having a capacity of 24,000 kilo-watts each. All this comes to about 1,188,000 kilo-watts of power. And then it is wound up here with this statement: "In their fully developed state the two power houses, at Nangal and the power house at Bhakra, will generate four lakhs kilo-watts of firm power at hundred per cent. load factor." I cannot understand how these two figures can be reconciled, and I would like the engineers to go through these figures and see whether this gives a correct representation of the bulk.

Of course there is the Hirakud project again. I find the same thing here, that there is so much block of power going to be raised there and there is no corresponding demand. It all seems to be on paper.

Turning now to my own constituency I should like to bring to the notice of the Planning Commission the very important necessity of looking into the requirements of the Madras Government in reference to the Periyar project. So far as Madras is concerned, I find that all the projects have been planned and sanctioned by the Madras Government on their own initiative before the Central Government thought of the Five Year Plan. In effect, the Plan merely includes all the schemes already under execution in the Madras State. Hon. Members are aware that there has been a serious shortage of electricity in Madras for the last six years, the monsoon has failed, and we are just now having a 66⅔ per cent. cut. Hon. Mem-

[**Shri Natesan**]

bers can understand how this will affect our production. Now the industrial and the agricultural consumers are greatly affected. If the industrial consumer is affected it means that a large number of labour is thrown out of employment and if labour is thrown out of work you can understand the excitement so far as wages are concerned and provision for work is concerned.

Apart from the Periyar project which has been put forward by the Government of Madras, there is also another project called the Kundah project which is supposed to start with a capacity of 75,000 kilo-watts for the present.

But as far as the Periyar project is concerned the whole thing has gone through the Central Water and Power Commission. They have okayed it and the plan is before the Planning Commission. I cannot understand why the Planning Commission has not taken it in the First Five Year Plan. I earnestly request that the Planning Commission should see that this project is taken up in the First Five Year Plan itself.

So far as the Kundah project is concerned, I believe that this has been sent back to the Government of Madras for some reference and it can probably be included in the second stage of the Five Year Plan.

There is insistent demand for power in South India. Since the rainfall has failed for the last few years the necessity has come now to see that we do not again have to cut all the electric power that is to be allotted to the people. For Bhakra Nangal, Damodar and Hirakud projects where proved demand is yet to mature and in some cases is very problematical, so many crores of rupees have been allotted and I do not see why South India should be treated differently.

Again I find that 2,000 tube-wells are being installed under the United States Technical Co-operation Administration Programme in the States of U.P., Bihar and Punjab. We had severe famine conditions in South India, and Madura, Ramnad, Tinnevelly and other parts of South India are suffering today from famine. I seriously suggest to the Planning Commission that some arrangement be made, even if the request has not come from the Madras Government, to see that provision is made for tube-wells or bore-wells or artisian-wells, whatever is possible for the soil of South India. In the districts close by Madras also—and I come from one such district, namely Chingleput district—there have been famine conditions. In these places small irrigation schemes have to come through. I have no doubt that the Planning Commission have in their sleeve, so to say, a sum of Rs. 30 to 40 crores to wangle. And I put it seriously to the Planning Commission and to the Minister in-charge of Planning that a substantial amount should be given to the Government of Madras.

Only one word more, Sir. Let me stress once again that this Periyar project must come through in the first Five Year Plan. There should be no question about it. And I cannot understand why money for this has not been provided, because it had been okayed by your Power engineers. But that is not going through. God knows when it is going to go through. If the monsoon fails again probably the 66⅔ per cent. we have at present may have to be made into a cent per cent cut. And that will deprive all the mill industry and the agriculture industry in that part of India. After all the whole thing has got to be considered as one unit. India should be considered as one unit and in the name of that regional unit I appeal to you to see that money is provided now without any further delay.

Shrimati Kamlendu Mati Shah (Garhwal Distt.—West *cum* Tehri Garhwal Distt. *cum* Bijnor Distt.—North): Sir, with your permission, I may put before the House, certain facts regarding the Government's treatment towards my constituency people in Tehri-Garhwal District.

These people have not been selected for a Community Project while the neighbours of Kumaon District will have that advantage at the cost of nearly Rs. 60 lakhs in three years. Thus, my District is again forgotten or neglected. It is a matter of surprise why this area, which is very backward, has not been selected for a Community Project when there was great necessity and full scope for the same.

The land which is almost dry in spite of the two mighty rivers, Ganga and Jamuna, and many other streams running through the country, could have been enriched by this Project which would start various constructions, by using this water for irrigation, on various elevations, for growing crops as well as fruits. This Project would help in building the greatly needed roads without which nothing can possibly be achieved. Along the roads, the construction of equally needed bridges would automatically follow.

As I have already pointed out, the District has a web of streams but little advantage is drawn from them. They become uncontrollable during the monsoons causing a lot of damage to the land, cattle and even people. I will give a small example of how handicapped they are during the rains. A villager's son had gone across a stream to another village just before the rains started. Rains followed his departure, making it uncrossable for miles together. Meanwhile this boy was bitten by a snake resulting in his death. The father was not able to even attend his son's cremation as it was many days' journey to reach there by land while he could see across his only son's pyre burning. One frequently witnesses such cases of sickness and pathetic helpless deaths in these interiors as they are beyond the reach of any necessary and immediate help. There are no co-operative works in this district but they could easily be started. Various cottage industries which would provide a means of employment and livelihood for the people could also be started by this Project.

It is sometimes said that Government have to spend more money on this District than its income but it is not correct. Again, it should be remembered that the erstwhile Tehri-Garhwal State handed over, at the time of the merger, to the Government of U. P. assets worth about a crore of rupees. Besides, the State had no liabilities, though, strongly enough, a vague mention of this has been made in a letter from the hon. the Prime Minister in answer to one of mine in this connection. This money could be used for the betterment of this District even if it is not given the benefit of a Community Project at this stage when the Project has been started in 55 other places. Besides, the argument of less income does not hold good today when the Government policy is to raise the standard of living, with special attention, towards the more down-trodden and backward people. I am sorry to have to say that the steps towards raising the standard of my District. have been mostly taken by increasing the staff and creating unnecessary posts resulting in high expenditure.

In the hope that our turn will come next for a Community Project, I may make a few remarks.

(1) The group of three hundred villages is too little for, it will take a very long time, at this rate, to cover the whole country. The same amount of money should be spent on a much larger area to give a quick return to the villagers in basic matters. Intensive work could be done later when the entire country has received basic help.

(2) A Community Project should be found on lines of the basic village uplift, as planned by Mahatmaji, and its institutions should become self-supporting after three years so that the Government does not have to go on paying Rupees two and a half lakhs year after year. Cottage industries should be encouraged and vocational training emphasised in schools, so that the village community may be able to produce its basic requirement and maintain its own institutions.

(3) Experts, after examining local conditions and consulting local inhabitants, should take local factors into account in selecting and deciding to experiment in suitable areas.

I shall now pass from the limited problems of Tehri-Garhwal to the more general and important questions of our country. The first point that I consider of great importance is afforestation for the purpose of firewood in our country. I have had the opportunity of travelling quite a bit in the West and have noticed that, wherever possible, afforestation was as common as growing grain; and this solved the problem of cooking as much as the crops solved the need of food. This was done despite the availability of other means like gas and electricity. But in our country, as far as I know, we have not thought of making any such arrangements with the result that, in the towns today the common man finds wood very expensive and in the villages, the poor farmers use the cow-dung cakes as the cheapest means of cooking, thereby depriving the land of manure as well as injuring their health. Afforestation is not as yet as serious a problem in the hills which are clothed with forests but the point should be very seriously considered in relation to the plains. The question of land for plantation may arise but I think it can be solved by utilising the land on both sides along the rail road, for this purpose.

Now, I would like to say a few words about the status of women in our country. If our Constitution provides for equality of rights for men and women, this equality is only an ideal and we have a long distance to travel to reach that goal. In our villages, women are still treated as inferior beings and unless the village folk mentality improves, there is not much hope in this matter. Our educationists repeatedly affirm that if we educate the mother, we educate the whole

[Shrimati Kamlendu Mati Shah]

family. Yet women's education is not treated with the attention that it deserves. For every five boys, it is one girl that goes to school. This disparity requires to be rooted out and though it may sound somewhat strange to men, even military training may be made a compulsory part of women's education. After all, in times of distress, they should not prove a mere burden, to their men and country, but should be able to help and share everything equally with them. We have had in our history, brave and great women and not mere women who are so helplessly dependent on men today. If women are given a chance, there is no doubt that they will take a leading part in every walk of life and what is achieved in some countries, in the West, is not impossible in our country too.

I note that some provision is made for the advancement of women and children in the Five Year Plan. Once again I repeat that it is not enough to make plans only. It is essential to pursue our objectives with determination.

Now, I need not take up more time by giving more examples and suggestions as the Plan, though it may need changes to adapt it to various localities, has been drafted by experts and enthusiasts. All I can say is that we, the representatives of Tehri-Garhwal do feel that we have not been very successful in drawing the Government's attention towards us, as, even after being assured by the hon. the Chief Minister of U.P. of some help, we are flatly denied at the nick of time, by saying that there is no money. It is difficult to understand why, when there is enough money for some for the asking, and for schemes spread all over the country today, there is none for us even after the assurance. We seem to be fated only to watch our neighbours and others getting all the cream of the benefit while we are left out of it. This, naturally, has created a feeling of step-motherly treatment in the people's minds and I hope that necessary steps will soon be taken to help them before it is too late.

Shri Tek Chand (Ambala-Simla): I hope I will not be guilty of partiality if I were to pay my tribute to the Engineers of this country. They are a set of people who ought to be given preference to any other professionals, preference even over scientists and specialists in other walks of life and they deserve encomiums more than any one else in this country. The great responsibility of building this country, the great burden of making this country self-sufficient and prosperous rests on the shoulders of these hard-working, honest, devoted Engineers who are today doing their utmost in order to raise the produce in this country, and in particular, who have engaged themselves in various irrigation schemes.

There is one thing of which I am particularly proud. Not only have we got good Engineers; not only have we got expert Engineers; but there are Engineers who have got the initiative, who can take courage and take adequate steps. Even though occasionally they may falter and even if occasionally they fail, they are shouldering the responsibility marvellously and it is high time that they deserve some boquets rather than brick-bats. Engineers in this country, or as a matter of fact, in any other country, have to take considerable chances, considerable risks. The role of a critic is very easy; the role of a planner is very difficult. A planner with the best of vision, with the best of experience, with the best of knowledge has not got control over external factors which are not subject to his decision or desire. Therefore, planners often commit mistakes. But, the critics forget the French saying, *Tout le monde est sage apres coup*, which means, that everybody becomes wise after the event. They expect that the Engineers, when they are drafting, when they are planning, should have before them the whole thing as it is going to develop and that they should be in a position to sweep off all possible obstacles which may not be within their ken. Talking of the role of a critic, and belonging to the legal profession, I sincerely feel that the most difficult thing for a person, the most unenviable thing, is to be in the shoes of a Judge, and to sift evidence, and to apportion blame. That perhaps is the most difficult thing. The more so when the evidence becomes conflicting, when there is a sharp cleavage, when there is a tug of war. Very often it is difficult to perceive who are the accused and who are the victims. Very often those who deserve to be in the dock like to play the role of complainants. I very much wish that those on whose shoulders rested the responsibility for drafting the report of the P.A.C. had before them some of the noble things uttered by the hon. Speaker in his inaugural address. He said, a few things to which I may allude: approach without antagonism; treat your witnesses as if they were gentlemen; do not start with suspicion. As you know very well, suspicion how-so-ever grave is no substitute for froof. Distrust begets distrust. Therefore, whenever an accusation is levelled against a man who is supposed to be responsible, who is supposed to know things, give him his proper chance of defence. Do not jump to conclusions. When laymen begin to sit in judgment over experts, they are confronted with a very delicate and difficult task. I offer my praise to the Members of the P.A.C. who have taken pains, who have put in hard labour and they have come to considered conclusions. But, the best among us including the Members of the P.A.C., are fallible. Therefore, when I noticed in the report certain remarks, certain painful observations, my feeling was, pardon me for quoting a Latin maxim, *Audi alteram partem*, hear the other point of view, examine it, sift it, consider it and then step into his shoes and think, that if you were in that position, with the limited knowledge at your disposal, whether you would have committed the same mistake or you would have avoided committing of mistakes,

I may refer to certain observations in this report. For instance, on page 5, in para 12, it is stated:

> "The Sub-Committee have been informed that stores of the value of about Rs. 5 crores were brought to Hirakud in a period of 6 months by the middle of 1948."

I wish that some one had checked this sentence. The truth appears to be that by the middle of 1948, stores even worth 48 lakhs, were not even indented. Hardly stores worth 28 lakhs were indented. Possibly that is an error that has crept in.

An Hon. Member: 48 crores?

Shri Tek Chand: Five crores. By the middle of 1948, they were not even indented.

Shri B. Das (Jajpur-Keonjhar): It seems the hon. Member knows more than the Minister. This was the evidence given by the Irrigation Minister.

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. The hon. Member is not giving way.

Shri Tek Chand: Then again, there were certain strictures passed against certain individuals. Certain individuals were as much as named. I very much wish that they were to consider themselves to be a committee of enquiry. They should have gone threadbare through the evidence. At least we might have had the advantage if a summary of the evidence were made available before some people who might be guilty and who might be innocent were tarred by one and the same brush. As the very first sentence in the introductory speech proceeded, this was instituted at the instance of the Revenue department. The Revenue department has as much right to pick holes and find out the crannies where irregularities have been committed. If there are any irregularities, steps should be taken to see that they are not committed. If somebody is guilty of any serious dereliction of duty or conduct, he should receive condign punishment provided he has been given a fair chance to defend himself. That is absolutely necessary.

6 P.M.

In another place, I find some grievance being made about aerial ropeways. Regarding aerial rope-ways, the position is this. Here is the material, you pick from the Disposals. You are anxious that you should have it. You are anxious that your aerial ropeway should be able to do the job with greater economy and greater speed. There is some error somewhere in the machine. It cannot function. Therefore, the idea is dropped, but it is not the duty of the Committee to find out whether those rope-ways or their extensions have been utilized in the project or not. If they had been utilized, surely the loss must have been minimised. However, there are certain other criticisms levelled, I regret to say, that there ought to be demarcation of the functions of the respective officers. But we are proud to say that in this country we have an engineer—may be more—enjoying an international reputation, who has done work which is excellent. It is all very well for any one of us to stand up and criticise, but to the critics, in all humility, in all sweet reasonableness, I would say one thing: pray, go to some of these works that are in the process of development. Go to Bakhra and Nangal which place I had occasion to visit a short while ago, and see what good and noble work is being done.

Shri Radhelal Vyas (Ujjain): The Public Accounts Committee has seen.

Shri Tek Chand: Similarly, there is a remark.......*(Interruption.)*

All that I will ask the learned interrupter is not to mortgage his own intelligence. By all means examine it. I do not say the Public Accounts Committee's report is necessarily faulty, but I counsel moderation. I counsel circumspection. I advise, go-slow, and when you are called upon to sit in judgment over

[Shri Tek Chand]

the conduct of any particular officer, let him have all the facilities that the worst type of accused in this country can secure. Hear his story. (*An Hon. Member*: No!) When somebody shouted "No", he denies even the facilities that are available to the worst type of accused; he has no claim to consideration, no claim to fairness. All that I submit to him, is that the object of the Accounts Committee is to find out faults. It is a most necessary thing. We must know where...

Shri Radhelal Vyas: On a point of order, Sir, can the Public Accounts Committee's report and its object be discussed here on this Demand?

Shri B. Das: That is in the rules.

Shri Radhelal Vyas: He is going even into the objects of the Public Accounts Committee.

An Hon. Member: He is holding a brief.

Shri Tek Chand: I hold brief for fairness, for justice, for fair-play—not for prejudice, not for cliques, not for cuteness, not for clannishness.

Shri Nanda: I may, at the outset, express my deep appreciation of the tone and substance of the speeches in the course of this discussion, both on the side of the Opposition and the Members on this side. The speeches were at a highly constructive and objective level. I would not be able, in the time that I have, to deal with all the questions that have been raised. I will have, therefore, to restrict myself to some of the most outstanding questions.

At the outset, I would like to deal with the report of the Public Accounts Committee. I was asked at what I meant when I said that the report was placed on the Table of the House on the eve of this discussion. Did I mean that there was some motive in doing so? I categorically state I do not impute any motive at all to the Public Accounts Committee. I am assured that they had no intention to embarrass me, but it happened that I got very little time—not sufficient time—to study the contents of the report as they should be studied. The reports of these Committees—the Estimates Committee and the Public Accounts Committee—are of the highest importance for Parliament and for Government, and the views and recommendations made in these reports deserve most earnest consideration. Therefore, although I did not get enough time, we immediately applied our minds to the most important part of that report—the recommendations. And, as hon. Members know—and it has been a matter of very great gratification to us that we were in a position to do so—we have accepted most of the recommendations because we are in hearty agreement with those recommendations. And some few have remained. They are being examined. I was asked whether, regarding the matters brought out in the report, we were going to take action. Specific mention was made of the question of the responsibility of certain officers, and whether we were going to take action against them. I made it clear—in the earlier statement that I made before the House that there are a lot of observations, and comments made in the report which we have not had enough time to study, and I would not be in a position to say now as to what precisely can be done about them. With regard to this specific question, my answer is that we have already taken action in some cases,—in one case particularly, very recently—and I must say that the action in this case was hastened by the work of the Public Accounts Committee. There are one or two other cases in which action depends upon certain procedures. I do not want to take up the time of the House. Sir, in going over the whole ground with regard to these recommendations.

Shri Raghavachari (Penukonda): May I know on what items you are supposed to have taken action already?

Shri Nanda: I was just referring to the same subject. I have got a list of those recommendations. It will take too much time of the House if I go through the whole list.

Shri Raghavachari: I only want to know what are the items on which you have already taken action?

Shri V. P. Nayar: Give us the numbers of the recommendations atleast.

Shri Nanda: I may state for example, some recommendations have been made about stores—procedure regarding stores. The recommendation has been in operation for some time because that matter had been under our own consideration for a considerable time. Similarly, there are other matters of procedure here in the first few recommendations. And there are other questions which relate to organizational matters. They are very important basic questions. And it would not be possible for us to straightaway declare our policy in these matters. Even in this respect, we have been able to take prompt decison in one direction. This, relates to the bifurcation of the posts of the Financial Adviser and the Chief Accounts Officer. Some of the recommendations overlap the earlier recommendations of the Estimates Committee, as for instance, the one which suggested that the post of the Chairman of the C.W P.C. should be separated from that of any secretariat post. That recommendation has been accepted already Further it was stated repeatedly that if we attached sufficient importance to the Hirakud Project, we should assign to it a whole-time chief engineer. It has already been decided that an arrangement should be made on this basis. Owing to certain difficulties, it was not possible to do so before.

I may, before I proceed, express my appreciation of the remarkable thoroughness with which the Committee has done its work. It has taken notice of everything wrong that might have occurred, and every shred of error or irregularity which came to its notice has been embodied in this report. It is an exhaustive report, and a very helpful report. It has been unsparing in the apportionment of blame. I appreciate it for that, not necessarily that I agree, in respect of the judgments on various events or persons. As I said before, I have a differing point of view regarding some of these matters. I will have to bring them up in the course of these remarks, just to be able to disabuse the minds of any Members here or the outside public regarding some expressions of opinion contained in the Report. I must say here that the Ministry had no opportunity to have a look at the draft of the report, and was therefore not in a position to offer its comments. If that had been done, may be, these differences would have been narrowed down very greatly.

Before I take up those few individual matters, for clarification, I want to make a few general observations. The first thing I have to submit is that I do not approach this task of making a reply in any spirit of advocacy. I do not want to belittle or minimise any lapses or wrongdoing that might have occurred. On the contrary, I would say it is my intention to bring out myself, more than the Committee has done, if anything has occurred, and I would not refrain from doing so because of any considerations of the prestige of any department of the Government of India or any officer of the Government. Negligence in performance of duty would be wrong anywhere. But there can be no forgiveness for any one who neglects his duty on these projects. These projects are the very substance of the Five Year Plan. On the success of these projects the solution of our problem of food shortage depend, as also the economic progress of the country generally. While I say that, I must also make this plea that we should, while making an appraisal of the work of these projects, see things in their proper perspective, and view these in their right proportions, in relation to the magnitude of the work that is being done. If that is done, then there certainly is no room for complaint. I owe it to the House to acknowledge that there have been some mistakes and irregularities, and I feel very unhappy about them. And I want to make it very clear that even though I regard them small in proportion to the whole situation, that is not and in fact; should not, be a reason for not taking any action, the fullest and most drastic, against any of those people who are involved in those irregularities. What one hon. Member on that side said would however lead one to believe that several crores of rupees were going down the drain. He said that it was a disgraceful and deplorable picture, making it appear as if most of the officers were incompetent and bad, and nothing good going to come out of these projects. I must say that that is an exaggerated and overdrawn picture.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I just point out one thing, Sir? When I said disgraceful and deplorable, I do not see how the officers are concerned there. The fact of the matter is that no progress has been made. If the hon. Minister denies that, then of course, I am wrong, but I did not attack the officers. It is not my job to do that.

Shri Nanda: What I was aiming at was that there should be no sweeping condemnation. The irregularities are there. If we look at them, what do we find? What we are concerned with, after all, here is how they affect expenditure, and how they affect the cost of the project. I have tried to look into these. I find that if we take out the subsidiary dam—for that, I have to say something—the entire aggregate amount involved in all these irregularities will be a few lakhs of rupees. We have already spent

[Shri Nanda]

about Rs. 25 crores on the Hirakud Project. It is good that we take this lesson to heart, for many more crores are going to be spent on Hirakud, where we will have to apply this experience to avert any further loss. Though I do not want to condone the loss of a pie, it should be kept in mind that the added cost on account of all this: may be a fraction of a per cent. Therefore, let us not talk as if quite a large scale wastage has occurred in relation to the work that is being done.

Then about persons. This alleged that officers not of the right type were appointed and they misbehaved. How many such cases? We have got large numbers of officers engaged all over and out of them four or five such cases have been found. Of those cases also two were displaced persons from the old North West Frontier Province. They were recommended by the Home Ministry. And when the Administration found that they were not conducting themselves satisfactorily, their cases were immediately reported to the Home Ministry and their services were dispensed with. These are two of the five cases. And then on the rest, action was taken. One person was acquitted in a court of law. Regarding the others police investigations are in progress. There was the case of the Chief Engineer who did not carry out the directions of the Ministry and the CWINC and kept them in the dark—and thus arose this question of estimates without sanction and various other irregularities for a period. That Chief Engineer has been removed. He was withdrawn from that place. His previous record did not warrant any inference that he was such a bad person. We have known of people in other walks of life who have occupied high places and some time, they began to show another strain in their character. This was the position—just a few cases.

After a fairly prolonged stay at Hirakud and a very close observation of the work that is being done there, I am able to say about Hirakud and I am able to say about the other projects, from all the material that is with me, that these projects are in very good shape. I can say that these projects are making satisfactory progress. I will say further, that these projects will render a good account of themselves in the programme of amelioration of the lot of the people of this country. These projects have been under constant observation, and scrutiny. All eyes are cast on them and, therefore, anything—any little thing—that happens there becomes public property. And it is good. But at any rate, when we are judging these projects and all those charges and allegations, let us keep in mind that the same things, are repeated every time this question arises—the sleepers and bullocks.

I was told by the hon. Member Shri Sarangadhar Das, that last year I made some statements in the House which now the Public Accounts Committee find to be not justified. I do not agree with that. I made no such statement. What did I say about the sleepers? I said there was urgent need. Regarding the sleepers question, I have laid on the Table this afternoon a very detailed statement covering the whole question in all its aspects. That aspect—urgency—is not disproved. But what has come out is that a premium was paid when it should not have been. Now, very probably what the Public Accounts Committee have said is correct, though we have referred the matter to the Punjab Government officers for a further examination of it. If this premium was wrongly paid and there was any corruption, we will take action in a suitable manner. Even if it were not corruption but irregular expenditure, we should take departmental action.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

We have already done so in fact. That man concerned is no longer with us. His services have been terminated and we will proceed against him if anything further is found.

Then the other case—of bullocks. On that what I said at that time—I have got the record before me—was that some she-buffaloes were alleged to have been imported along with the others and paid for from the project in order that those Engineers might have an abundant supply of milk. I said that so far as the records of the Government were concerned, I did not find that any payment had been made for any she-buffaloes. That was what I said then and I stand by it. I never said then that no irregularities had occurred.

What I am concerned with more is the future. The Members here are within their rights in criticising all that has happened, however remote it may be. It is the duty of the Government to take adequate action also regarding these matters. But it is not sufficient that these Engineers do not make mistakes. These Engineers have been called upon to achieve things, achieve results, and while we take suitable action regarding any person who is found to be a transgressor, we should at least see to this—that in regard to the hundreds of Engineers who are engaged in the execution of these major projects, we do nothing to demoralise them, to bring down their morale.

I may say another thing in this connection. I hope hon. Members have noticed the fact that most of these things relate to an earlier period. I should think that most of the irregularities occurred before April/May 1951. After that nothing has been brought to anybody's notice. Now, when I mention this fact, I do not mean to let it be inferred that I want to say that I was not personally associated at that time. I take full responsibility for whatever occurred in the past, for ascertaining the facts, for locating the responsibility and for taking action. We have now to see whether during this period we were alert and alive and done all that was required to be done. Have we taken action? On that score I have a very satisfactory record to put before the House. This action was not started by me. Before I came action had been initiated and I took it up and pursued it. I introduced various other measures. It will take time to explain all the steps that have been taken. Several committees were set up, special officers were appointed to investigate and report and various organisational improvements were made. Apart from the question of irregularities, the whole stores system at Hirakud has now been brought to a very highly satisfactory condition. The accounts there are still not in good condition and we have to give our urgent attention to it.

Considering the difficulties we have experienced in the matter of personnel etc. we have possibly undertaken a little too much. Possibly in a highly optimistic mood we started several projects and did not take into account all that we were going to contend with. Too much was taken for granted. The availability of funds and personnel was not taken into account fully. It was considered that we will set things right as we go on: and. who can say that it would have been better not to have started those and to have waited for some years. Naturally, in the earlier stages, there was some lack of co-ordination. But very steady improvement has occurred and I am able to say that now the state of affairs is satisfactory. There is still considerable scope for improvement and every day we are trying to do better.

In respect of personnel, we are trying to have a pool, and provide better training so that as we go along we can execute a number of projects hereafter. We are experiencing difficulties at the Bhakra Nangal project. We have to go out throughout the country begging for Engineers. A great deal of dilution has occurred. Officers are having responsibilities at levels which they would not have attained in many years yet and we have to suffer for that.

We are also dealing with the question of materials. If the Bhakra Nangal project does not get adequate cement, it will not be possible to run the canals next year as scheduled. These things are being attended to. They are important things.

As I said already, there has been improvement of late and that too steadily. I want to say one thing which has given me a great deal of happiness—I am not airing anything which is a domestic matter. It is a well known fact that there has been what the Public Accounts Committee called a "perpetual dispute" between the Engineers and the Finance people over-period. It was vitiating the atmosphere of the Hirakud project. But very fortunately we have been able to solve this problem and I must give some credit to the Public Accounts Committee for that. Under the stress of its recommendations it came about earlier. It had to come about anyhow. We have been able to arrive at an understanding which has a very important bearing on the future of these projects, on the economic execution and speedy progress of these projects. We have settled some of these differences and we have found a way of dealing with what remains. The Irrigation and Power Ministry will accept the advice of the Comptroller and Auditor-General in the matter. I am absolutely sure that he will take into account the difficulties of the engineers fully. The object of the engineers is that they want speedy action, they want to get things done: but Finance wants to make sure that money is not lost. Both these objectives are desirable and I am sure that the Comptroller and Auditor General would be able to reconcile these and solve difficulties experienced by engineers.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: On a point of information, Sir. Simply because there was shortage of men and material should corruption be condoned?

Shri Nanda: Hon. Members will bear me out that I inserted that action has to be taken in these cases and it has to be drastic action. I said not a pie of loss or wastage should be condoned.

One thing which is exercising the minds of hon. Members here and outside is the fact that our estimates are being revised upwards, by leaps and bounds. Therefore, it appears as if all that rise represents some kind of maladministration, waste or corruption. Possibly the idea is that what was intended to be done at a certain rate of expenditure is going to be now accomplished at double the cost, because of mismanagement. When estimates go up, two things might happen. Either the financial returns go down or the benefits which the people have to receive in the shape of water for the fields and power for industries etc. will become more costly. It may be that if the prices have risen all round, the benefits can be paid for at higher prices. More rates can be paid for water; more price can be paid for power, though it should always be our effort to keep down the prices. It may also be that for some reason we are not able to charge the full price. Then the financial return goes down. We should avoid it. The question is: what is this rise in estimates due to? If, during the course of a few years, because the value of money depreciates, because the prices of materials rise, the prices of machinery rise, or because wages rise, the cost of an estimate goes up, who is to blame? We are taking up so many other projects on the same basis. In the first place, we cannot predict the course of prices. Even if we had known that prices were rising, we might not have been able to stop taking up these projects to the extent the rise in estimates is due to the price having increased, there is a valid explanation.

Then, what are the other factors? Another factor may be that the scope of the benefits has increased. We find sometimes that it is possible to extend irrigation or power cost, at much less than proportionate cost. Against this increased cost there is something to show in the shape of more benefit and there should be no reason to look askance at this aspect of the increase in estimates.

There may be other factors too for example the designs have been changed. Unforeseen contingencies may arise. In the course of the construction of dams, it may be that you strike on foundations which your previous investigations did not prepare you for and therefore you have to put in much more work. If estimates rise apart from all these factors, and simply because the engineers had not made their investigation properly or had not taken due care in other respects, then they are to blame. But this rise in estimates is not a phenomenon confined to this country. I have information about various dams constructed in other countries and I have found several instances of very heavy increases in estimates.

India is a poor country and it has limited resources. Therefore, the greatest caution has to be observed in choosing our projects. It may be that a project is good for various purposes, but we have to apply our resources in the most economical manner and if any investigations are not prefect and adequate and for that reason we adopt one project whereas another more paying project has to be left out, that will be something which will be interpreted as a misuse of the resources of the country.

I now take up the question of progress. We have been told again and again that these projects are not moving ahead. I have gone into this question also, and I find that although the first steps were not quite sure, we have gained confidence and organised ourselves in a manner that I can assure the House that the schedules which are now being declared are going to be adhered to. So far as the past is concerned, whatever money was allotted to these projects was spent. It may be that our financial resources did not permit of larger allotments.—How much more time will I have, Sir?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Demands must be finished by seven o'clock, and I must have at least a few minutes before seven o'clock, so that I will have to put the cut motions to the vote of the House. At seven o'clock, I have to start the half-an-hour discussion. So, he can have ten minutes more.

Shri Nanda: That means—and I believe it is just as well—that I will not be able to deal with all that material in the Public Accounts Committee Report concerning specific matters, at this stage. I am bound to have other occasions. I will find a way to put the whole thing, so far as it concerns my Ministry, in the correct perspective.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The practice is that whatever remains still to be said by the hon. Minister may be put in the form of a memorandum and circulated.

Shri Nanda: I accept with thanks this very kind suggestion.

Shri T. N. Singh: Is it suggested by the hon. Minister that he has yet to say certain things by way of contradiction or amendment of whatever has been stated in the Public Accounts Committee Report?

Shri Nanda: There are some factual matters.

Shri Feroze Gandhi (Pratapgarh Distt.—West *cum* Rae Bareli Distt.—East): We have had enough of the P.A.C. Let us have something of planning.

Shri Nanda: Planning is a subject that comes up again and again. We are going to have discussion on planning sometime later when we will put before the House our report of the progress of implementation.

Shri A. P. Sinha (Muzaffarpur East): But it is not Hirakud alone that the hon. Minister is supposed to discuss. Last year in the Budget, he had almost ninety minutes for Hirakud alone. It was a limit to our patience, and this year, he has taken almost fifty minutes on Hirakud, but there are other projects in India over which the hon. Minister presides.

Shri Nanda: I have not given too much time to Hirakud. I have made general observations which apply not only to Hirakud but to all projects which are of general importance regarding irrigation and power matters.

Shri A. P. Sinha: It is a limit to our forbearance.

Shri Nanda: I believe what is in the hearts and minds of these friends is that they have certain projects which they want to promote. They have a certain idea of deficiencies so far as their areas are concerned. They want to know from me what is going to be done about those things. Even if I had twenty hours before me, I would need only five minutes to answer that question. The answer is this. Irrigation and power planning is a part of the overall planning of the country. It is a very important segment, but the resources available for it are after all limited. There is the complaint made by the hon. Member Dr. Saha that we have not given enough for steel, industrialisation etc. If I were answering his question, I would say: what are we to do? People are telling us to do so many things, but we do not have all the resources that we need for this plan. Will he ask me to cut down irrigation? He will not do that. What shall we cut? We have done for irrigation as well as we could do. Some of these projects were already there and the rest that have been included were on the basis of priorities. We have given thought to all this. We have included some projects in the Plan to be taken up towards the end of the period of the Plan or in the course of it, to be continued later on in the next five year period. And it would not be possible for me to say with respect to all these various demands that have been made, that they will be included in the Plan, unless hon. Members and others in the country go round and enable us to raise loans on a much larger scale than we have provided for and make the people save on a scale which may be four or five times what we have anticipated. Then it may be possible to bring in new projects, but not till then.

I would not like to trespass the limits that you have set for me. I have just a few words to add regarding certain questions which were raised in the context of the cut motion about Planning. The point was made that we are doing too little for minor irrigation. We do not believe that it is so. We made a provision of Rs. 77 crores originally and later on we have specially added Rs. 15 crores. And I believe that this will be utilised to very great advantage. Both major and minor irrigations have a part to play. They have got their respective spheres of utility.

There was a question about having an all-India Grid. It is a very good idea. The Planning Commission has practically recognised the utility of of a system connecting the power generated in all parts of the country. Only it takes time to develop to that stage. We must first try to link up the power developed in various regions. And certainly the time will come when we will inter-link all of them throughout the country.

Regarding industrialisation there is this complaint—the hon. Member Dr. Saha pointed out—of steel and iron not being given full attention, I must say that what he has said is true, that is we need much more steel and iron in this country. But it is not true that we are not giving attention to

[**Shri Nanda**]

this question. We are. After all for a project of this kind we need very heavy investment and we are trying to do our best with our resources get and with such help as we can secure.

Sir, I have just one minute for me according to the limit set for me.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister may take three more minutes. After all I just wanted time to put the cut motions and the demands to the vote of the House.

Shri Natesan: May I ask the hon. Minister......

Shri Nanda: Now he is going to take those minutes!

Shri Natesan: May I ask the hon. Minister to kindly say a word about the Periyar project about which South India is so much interested? I would put a definite question why this project has not been taken up by the Planning Commission although the scheme has been okayed by the Power Wing of the Central Water and Power Commission.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. Hon. Members cannot go on in that way. There are hundreds of projects all over the country.

Shri Natesan: May I observe that in this particular case the scheme has been there for such a long time, it went through all the Departments here in the Government of India, and I cannot understand why when several crores of rupees are being spent in North India ten crores of rupees cannot be spent for South India? I want to know from the hon. Minister.

Shri Nanda: Whatever I have already stated covers that. These two minutes are over and I shall therefore conclude. I will just say one word in the end. I regard these river valley projects as the symbol of the will of the nation to conquer the poverty which has been afflicting this country. These projects are going to our sheet-anchor in fighting poverty and economic backwardness, and therefore I must assure the House that anything which is connected with these projects will get our best attention. Every possible effort will be made that in respect of projects, which are consuming such a lot of our resources and where such heavy investment is being made, the planning is perfect, that the organisation is placed on the soundest footing and that every pie that is devoted to these projects is made the best use of.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now, I will put all the cut motions to the vote of the House.

The cut motions were negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper in respect of Demands Nos. 61, 62, 63, 64, 129 and 130 be granted to the President to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of the corresponding heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof."

The motion was adopted.

[*The motions for Demands for Grants which were adopted by the House are reproduced below.*—Ed. of P.P.]

DEMAND NO. 61—MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,28,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Ministry of Irrigation and Power'."

DEMAND NO. 62—IRRIGATION (INCUDING WORKING EXPENSES), NAVIGATION, EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS (MET FROM REVENUE).

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Irrigation (including Working Expenses), Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works (met from Revenue)'."

DEMAND NO. 63—MULTIPURPOSE RIVER SCHEMES.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 41,78,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Multipurpose River Schemes'."

DEMAND NO. 64—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS AND EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 37,12.000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the respect of 'Miscellaneous Depart- 31st day of March, 1954, in ments and Expenditure under the Ministry of Irrigation and Power'."

DEMAND NO. 129—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON MULTIPURPOSE RIVER SCHEMES.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,48,19,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Multipurpose River Schemes'."

DEMAND NO. 130—OTHER CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,76,74,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power'."

IMPORTS OF COPRA AND COCONUT OIL

Shri V. P. Nayar (Chirayinkil): I am raising this discussion to focus the attention of this House on the callous, step-motherly attitude of this Government towards coconut growers in this country in general and the millions of coconut growers in my part of the country, that is Travancore-Cochin State and Malabar district of Madras State, in particular. Why I say so is because the hon. Minister revealed in Parliament last month that the Government is pursuing a policy of substantially reducing the duties on import. The information which he disclosed shows that "the standard and preferential rates of import duty on copra have been reduced from 36 per cent. *ad valorem* to 25 per cent. *ad valorem* and from 24 per cent. *ad valorem* to 15 per cent. *ad valorem* respectively from 1951-52."..."The standard and preferential rates of import duty on coconut oil have also been reduced in the above period from 40 per cent. *ad valorem* to 31:25 per cent. *ad valorem* and from 30 per cent. *ad valorem* to 21:00 per cent. *ad valorem* respectively." Consequent on this reduction the prices of copra have been falling. Sometimes they fall very steeply, rise again, then fall and rise again with the result that there is no security for the coconut grower. He does not know what is going on, what his produce will fetch. This must be viewed from a different angle so far as Travancore-Cochin and Malabar districts are concerned because, from the reports of the Coconut Committee, you will see out of a total estimated yield of 326 crores, of nuts, Travancore-Cochin and Madras have about 286 crores. It works up to a percentage of 85. You know in Travancore-Cochin the conditions are so peculiar that almost every household depends to a large measure on coconut trees. It is a most dominating factor in the economy of Travancore-Cochin State and Malabar. With the vicissitudes in prices it is quite natural that the people are very often hit below the belt. This has been done systematically to encourage the industrial monopoly.

7. P. M.

This morning I found that in the Council of States the hon. Minister for Commerce answered a question from the hon. Member Mr. Imbichhi Bava. He was asked as to the quantity of exports for certain periods and he has given some figures from which it is seen that 23,019 cwts of soap were exported in 1950, 39,547 cwts were exported in 1951, for 1952 it was 54,878 cwts. For 1953, of course, only one month's figure is known to them and the most significant aspect is that official statistics do not give the name of exporters and manufacturers and the information is therefore not available. I do not know how I can reconcile this with the statement made by the Minister last year in reply to my speech on the Commerce budget when he said categorically—

> "I am sure that this Government has complete control over every industry whether owned by foreigners or Indians."

This is what he said on the 17th of June last year. Having said that the Government now say they do not have figures. But in answer to certain sup-

[Shri V. P. Nayar]

plementaries, the hon. the Commerce Minister revealed that while the Kerala Soap Factory which is owned by Government of Madras and the Mysore Soap Factory which is another State Government concern have only an installed capacity of 750 tons each of soap production, the Lever Brothers, have in India an installed capacity of 49,130 tons. This would be 66 times, not 66 per cent. but 66 times more than what the Kerala Soap Factory or the Mysore Soap Factory has the same hon. Commerce Minister would however, say that he does not know the percentage in spite of the fact that last year, we were categorically told by the Commerce Minister that he is supreme in his control. He even went to the extent of saying that every foreign interest is right under his thumb. The unfortunate result is that the coconut producer is nowhere. He does not know what prices he will get. There was no security of price. I remember last week when I asked a supplementary question, you asked me whether Travancore-Cochin Government is a child which has to be kept on asking for more. Precisely so in this case because it is not only a child crying for milk but even after crying for milk, it does not get the milk. You find it is a neglected child.

One of the leading dailies in Malabar, the *Mathrubhoomi*, while reporting the debate in the local Legislature says that the Finance Minister, the hon. Panamballi Govinda Menon, expressed that in spite of the request made by the Travancore-Cochin Government, the Government of India did not consult the Travancore-Cochin Government in fixing the prices. He lamented the situation, but that was all that could be done. Here I say I have to differ from you. The Travancore-Cochin Government is a child which cried for more and found perhaps the same experience as Oliver Twist has from Mr. Bumble.

Then I want to focus the attention of the hon. Minister in another matter. After he replies, I will not have a right of speaking. I shall try to anticipate what he will say. It is not merely a question of prices here, it is not merely a question of agricultural produce *versus* industry, it is not a question of the prices of imported articles alone. An argument may be advanced that only a part of this is used for industrial purposes. It cannot hold good. It is a mere frivlity of which there is a superabundance in the Treasury Benches now.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it necessary to use that language? I do not think so; hon. Members must try to carry more by argument.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I used the word in the sense of "trifling." This is a big issue and as far as Travancore-Cochin is concerned, from the attitude of Government we find Sir..........................

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members forget that any single expression on a particular subject destroys the whole pot of milk. The hon. Member was doing very well. Such an expression...

Shri V. P. Nayar: I am unfortunate in this that I can use only very apt words. Sir, the position is perhaps coconut oil is used for cooking purposes, perhaps for making some other articles in large quantities. True. But the question here is not whether or how much coconut oil is to be consumed for domestic purposes. If you increase the prices of coconut oil by 100 percent. that is not going to increase the family budget of a Common man even by one per cent. That is the situation because an ordinary household uses only very little coconut oil but if you decrease the price of coconuts and coconut oil and copra, the profits earned by the soap manufacturers will be much more. I would earnestly requets my hon. friend the Commerce Minister who says that he has every information about the foreign companies here just to tell us what is the profit made by Lever Brothers, what is the profit made by Tatas and what is the profit made by Godrej by their Industry on Soap. If only he gives the information, I will be silent. If the Minister divulges the information about the profits made by Lever Brothers, by Tatas and other big manufacturers, there you will find what money has been robbed from the millions of our cultivators. You will also find that in the soap manufactured in these factories of the monopolists like Lever Brothers, there is an invisible ingredient and that is the plasma of the life blood of our people. That is the way in which they systematically reduce the import duty. At the same time, even from 1934, the earliest year in regard to which I could get a report of an Enquiry Committee, about the position of coconuts in 1934. As you know, permission was given to me to raise this discussion only today and I could not get other records and figures. But from 1934 we are importing Copra and coconut oil. From 1934 till today we have been going on increasing our imports. Here is a produce which is not sufficient to meet the requirements of the country. Why should it be that the cultivators, poor cultivators cannot hope for a reasonable price. If you look at the market rate, every week you will find that there is fantastic fluctuation, not ordinary fluctuation, the like of which you will not see in any other commodity and what do they say? They say the improved position is expected to persist until the new season when copra begins to arrive. From where? The price here is not dependent upon our produce but on conditions elsewhere. If it is to be a big crop then that position may worsen at once. It always depends upon the produce of other countries.

If you want to keep the industries going on, this is not the way. It will be as idle, it will be as foolish as the farmer who killed the goose which laid golden eggs. On the other hand, if you want to have the industries going, let them subsidise industries. It is not by looting the poor cultivator that the industry has to be kept going on. The House must be aware of the situation that is prevailing in Kerala. It is a State which produces about 85 per cent. of the entire coconut Produce of India and the economy of which is completely dependent upon the yield from the coconut tree and the price which the people are able to get. The Government have hopelessly mismanaged the affairs, they have been callous, they have been step-motherly in this attempt.

Shri A. M. Thomas (Ernakulam): I find that the matter was raised in the Travancore-Cochin State Assembly also......

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I find that notice has been given to me by Mr. Sreekantan Nair and Mr. K. K. Basu.

Shri Achuthan (Crangannur): I have also given.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have not got it.

Shri Punnoose (Alleppey): We were not aware of the procedure.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The procedure is laid down in the rules. Whosoever wants to put a question should inform me. Except the Member who has tabled the question and the Minister who replies, none else is entitled to speak. Any hon. Member who wants to put a question for elucidation must give me previous notice. Mr. Thomas has given me notice already.

Shri Achuthan: I have also given.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair (Quilon *cum* Mavelikkara): I have sent........

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have not received. I will waive that. But, the mere sending of slip is not enough. He must, in addition, say, I want to put a question. Mr. Thomas first.

Shri A. M. Thomas: I want to put this question. I find from the report of the Assembly proceedings of Travancore-Cochin State that this matter was raised there also and in bold headlines it is reported that the Travancore-Cochin Government has made representations to the Central Government that the imports should be stopped and that in any event the import duty should be increased, but that the Central Government is turning a deaf ear to these requests. The Finance Minister has also said that the Central Cocoanut committee is not at all consulted in any of these matters and that their recommendations are being ignored. I would like him to give an answer to this statement made by the hon. Finance Minister in the local Assembly. I would also like to know what exactly is the position: last year copra was taken out of the OGL; I want to know whether the Government are contemplating unrestricted imports.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: May I ask a question after the Minister makes the speech?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No; it cannot be done.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: May I know whether the Minister is aware of the fact that there has been of late a sudden fall in the price of cocoanuts, because the merchants anticipated that cocoanuts, copra and oil from Indonesia would be dumped into this country and as such they refused to buy cocoanuts or copra, resulting in accumulation in the hands of cultivators. May I know whether he is aware of the fact that there has been a power cut in the stations completely removing the possibility of crushing copra? Due to this factor also, there is accumulation of cocoanuts in the hands of the growers. This artificial scarcity of material has created a certain rise in the price, which is quite artificial and which may come down the moment the power cut is lifted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Anyhow, I will allow other hon. Members also who

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

have not given notice. They will take notice hereafter that in such matters they will have to give me previous notice.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: May I ask a procedural question, Sir? I understand originally the practice was that those who sign the form will get a chance.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: True; I was willing to call him. But, that is not the rule. Anyhow, he must also give his intimation.

Shri Punnoose: I want to know whether the hon. Minister is aware of the particular economy that we are having in Kerala as a whole, in Travancore-Cochin particularly. Our economy is, on the whole, substantially depending on commercial crops, crops like cocoanut, etc., with the result that whenever there is a set back in the prices of these, we experience acute depression. Our whole national economy is upset. I would like to know whether the Minister is going to allow unrestricted import of cocoanut and cocoanut oil, whether he knows that it is affecting our economic stability and whether his notice has been attracted to the statement made by the Finance Minister of Travancore-Cochin State. I also want to know what he has done to do away with the fears expressed.

Shri Achuthan: May I know what was the cogent reason which prevailed with the Government when they embarked upon this reduction of import duty, when the prices were abnormally falling down? Have the Government enquired about the cost of production of these cocoanuts here and the cost of production of cocoanut, copra and oil in Indonesia and Ceylon? In view of the deep depression now prevailing with regard to cocoanut products like coir, mattings and other things, have Government considered the possibility of seeing that the price of cocoanuts goes up so that the people who have cocoanuts with them may embark upon some such small industries and the unemployment problem may be solved, partially at least. It is impossible for us coming from that area, to be here, experiencing difficulties there and seeing that the Central Government is not considering these things. The constitution of a Coir Board does not solve the problem. Have the Government considered the requirements of this country with regard to soap manufacture, home consumption and other things with regard to cocoanut oil before embarking on this abnormal reduction?

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: One more question, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yes; but the question is very long.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: A short question, Sir. Are the Government aware that a difference of only six per cent. in the import duty on copra and cocoanut oil does not give a sufficient margin for the indigenous crusher, oil mill owner and thereby to the oil mill worker to crush copra here and compete with foreign countries?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): I do not want to provoke my hon. friend who would like to be provoked. Nor do I want him to pursue the infructuous investigations into the English Dictionary to find suitable words of abuse. But, I am afraid this is what is called much ado about nothing. Because, nothing has happened, prices have not dropped, and import duties have not been lowered. On the other hand, prices are going up. Here we have a spectacle of questions being asked on an isolated problem and a half-hour discussion raised on a fact which does not exist at all. Of course, sometimes my hon. friends opposite think that white is black and black is white, and they think that the Sun rises in the west and sets in the east. (*An Hon. Member*: What about your own side?) It is a matter of doctrinnaire belief which I think my hon. friend is perfectly entitled to hold. I am deeply aware of the fact that, at any rate, not as a Minister, as a Member of this party, we should not hit back. Of course, I am even prepared to turn both my cheeks alternately for being slapped. I am glad I have about twelve minutes for me. I will go not upon the hon. Member's speech, because the speech went off at a tangent and it had nothing to do with the explanatory note which he sent to you when raisinb this half-hour discussion. The explanatory note covered six points and I propose to go on those points because at least there is some bone at which we can bite instead of something very nebulous which even the teeth cannot get hold of.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Not at your age, at any rate.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: My teeth are quite good.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister will see that the Finance Minister of that State has said that the Central Government has not come to their help. There seems to be some apprehension which may be founded or not. The hon. Minister may kindly say with regard to that.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I will disclose the position in respect of what my hon. friend mentioned in the explanatory note. The hon. Member's basis seems to be the reply given to unstarred question No. 96 of the 17th February in which he has asked in respect of imports of copra and cocoanut oil from Ceylon. It is a fact that imports generally of copra and cocoanut oil have increased. In 1950, the import of copra was 13,600 tons; in 1951, 9,550 tons; in 1952, 18,350 tons. Imports of cocoanut oil during the corresponding periods were: 20,142 tons, 24,758 tons and 28,288 tons. It is also a fact that variations in the rates of fduties mentioned by the hon. Member in paras two and three of his explanatory note are correct. There have been reductions, and I might also add a fact which the hon. Member has missed, there has been also tariff revaluation which has been on a downward grade. Notwithstanding this fact, still the imported cocoanut oil costs more than the locally produced one, and cocoanut oil produced out of imported copra costs more than the imported cocoanut oil—Rs. 200 more per ton in Calcutta, and Rs. 100 more per ton in Bombay.

It is not a fact that prices of copra have fallen in India by reason of the reduction of import duty, nor that the entire cocoanut growing population of this country has been affected. The presumption in para five of the explanatory note that the *Gazette of India* Notification No. 13 dated 26th February have abolished duties—on which an adjournment motion was raised and I answered the question—is completely wrong. The fact has again been mentioned. I have already explained to the House that this Notification merely continues the existing scale of duty on copra and cocoanut oil, thus eliminating the application of the provisions of sub-clause (d) of clause 5 of the Finance Bill, *i.e.*, Bill No. 14 of 1953, which has been a 25 per cent. surcharge. We do not want that surcharge to operate because it will be an addition to the existing duty, and that is why the notification was issued. I explained that the other day. Nor do I admit the basis of para six of the explanatory note, *viz.*, all this has had a generally bad effect on the entire cocoanut growing population in India.

In regard to the production of cocoanut oil, the average during the last three years is somewhere about 1,07,000 tons. The estimated requirements of cocoanut oil per year in this country approximates to very nearly one and a half lakhs of tons. Out of this, nearly 55 to 60 per cent. are used for edible purposes, 12½ per cent. for the soap industry, and the balance for toilet, domestic and illumination purposes. There is definitely a short-fall of over 40,000 tons which has to be imported from abroad. Otherwise, prices in the country rocket. Taking the figures of import for the year 1952 as 28,288 tons of oil and 18,350 tons of copra on the basis of every ton of copra yielding about 0.6 ton of oil, we might estimate that the short-fall is just about met. It would be incorrect to presume that these imports have had any adverse effect on prices. On the other hand, there has been a phenomenal increase in the price of copra and cocoanut oil in India Compared to the pre-war prices, when they reached their peak during the Korean war period, the prices rose eight times.

Shri Punnoose: Prewar price means depression price.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Prices towards the end of 1950 of copra was Rs. 1,644 per ton, and oil Rs. 2.464 per ton. These prices were inordinately high as compared with the prices ruling in Colombo, Singapore and Djakarta markets. The protection afforded to the cocoanut industry was partly by import levy by us which has been periodically varied, and partly by the export duties levied by Ceylon on copra and cocoanut oil exported by them. Some time in March, 1952, the prices in India dropped. Copra prices came down to Rs. 871 from Rs. 1,644,—that was in March, 1952—and cocoanut oil prices to Rs. 1,300 from Rs. 2.464. Since then prices have again been steadily rising. There was a sharp upward trend in October, 1952, consequent on the reopening of the hedge market in Travancore-Cochin, but prices settled down next month. Thereafter, the prices have been steadily rising. The November 1952 price for copra was Rs. 1,132 as against the March, 1953 price of Rs. 1,253.

Figures speak for themselves. I cannot cook these figures. Similarly, the November 1952 price of cocoanut

[Shri T. T. Krishnamachari]

oil was Rs. 1,648 as against the March 1953 price of Rs. 1,887. And I also find that the cocoanut prices have been steadily rising Rs. 60, Rs. 65. The quotation that I saw in the Cochin market day before yesterday was Rs. 70.

Since last May, there has been a progressive and satisfactory decline in the prices of industrial commodities which are consumed by the mass of the people, like cotton textiles. We cannot as a Government, allow, in the circumstances, the prices of agricultural commodities to rise to offset any reduction in the cost of living achieved by the drop in prices of certain manufactured goods.

I suppose it is not necessary to provide any further answer to the hon. Member as the figures speak for themselves. I would like to reiterate that the Notification No. 13 of February 28, did not, in effect, reduce the duties. The duties remained what they were after the 28th February. That is a grim fact. Hon. Member need not repeat about the Notification. In fact, I cannot hide the truth if the truth was otherwise.

The second fact which I would like the House to note is the prices between November, 1952, and March, 1953, both in regard to copra and in cocoanut oil—in one case it has risen from Rs. 1132 to Rs. 1253 and in the case of cocoanut oil from Rs. 1648 to Rs. 1687.

There is another factor which, I think, the House will agree, as a Government we have to look upon also. The groundnut crop this year has been very poor. The oil market has been showing signs of a considerable spurt in price, and it is causing us a great deal of anxiety. In fact, I should not be surprised if the upward trend in cocoanut oil prices goes up rather rapidly in sympathy with groundnut oil which is also going up. And hon. Members there who are really interested—at any rate, so they say—in the cost of living of the common man and also in his purchasing power being maintained, would share with me the alarm which I express when I see the cost of living index going up steadily. The whole scheme of the future—it may be that our plan is no use; it may not be ambitious—but the whole scheme of our plan is based on our keeping the price line firm. And in this connection, I do not mind admitting to the House that I am rather perturbed at the tendencies that now show which would make the cost of living of the average man go up. The Government have to take all precautions to keep the prices down. In fact, I have another fact to add.

A reference has been made as to whether the Indian Central Cocoanut Committee was consulted. We have committees galore. The Agricultural Department, I think, have got 20 committees. I have got a number of committees myself. If we have to listen to every committee's advice, the result would be like the story of the Miller's son and the ass.

Shri Punnoose: Then, scrap them.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: We have to take their advice in regard to development of the particular product, not in regard to Government policy. But, I would like to mention that the Cocoanut Committee which publishes a journal—and you cannot say the Cocoanut Committee is not responsive to the interests of the Cocoanut grower has, in its issue of April/June, 1952, on Page 136—they have been very modest—said:

> "If the price of cocoanut oil is somewhere about Rs. 1,620 per ton, then the grower must be satisfied."

Actually, the price is Rs. 1,887 per ton. It was that some time back, but today it has gone up.

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): The Committee has given sensible advice.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It was Rs. 1,648 in November. It is now Rs. 1,887, but even the Committee says Rs. 1,620 would more than compensate the cocoanut grower. I am very sorry that in these circumstances I have to reiterate once again I made tremely modest charge that I made that there is much ado about nothing.

But about this fact that my hon. friend Mr. A. M. Thomas drew my attention to......

Shri Punnoose: That is an exception?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: As I said, this question of reduction of duties has been over a period of years, from 1950, and thereafter 1952. It may be we will have to reduce the duties a little further later, perhaps. But this is a matter on which we cannot share our responsibility with anybody else. The moment any vehement representation is received, I feel, that there is no need for a representation, because the facts prove otherwise. The prices have been going up. The fact that we have been allowing imports has not in any way affected local prices.

There is one other point to which my hon. friend Shri N. Sreekantan Nair drew my attention. That is a matter which causes me deep anxiety, not merely because of the fact that the copra crushing industry is suffering, but many other industries also are suffering. That is the power cut. The Government are not unalive to the needs of Travancore-Cochin. I am personally very much interested in it, and I may say in all humility that I have been taking a little amount of interest in it, and I have got the co-operation of the Travancore-Cochin Government. This power cut is very unfortunate, because it is going to stop all the factories roundabout Alleppey. And it is possible that there is a little distress, because of the power cut. and the oil mills which use power are not buying copra. May be; but oil prices will rather go up, rather than go down, if oil is not crushed. The point was made by Mr. Sreekantan Nair in his own inimitable way, but it did not lend me support in the manner in which he put it. But to my mind that is a factor which should make the oil prices go up rather than go down. It is a matter which neither the Travancore-Cochin Government nor we can help, because we are very much in the hands of what we—you and I, Sir—consider to be Providence, and we have to bear the penalty of having faith in Providence. That is all that I have to say. There is no basis of fact behind any of these complaints that have been made today.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I seek a clarification, Sir?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No. The House will stand adjourned till two p. m. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned till Two of the Clock on Saturday, the 28th March, 1953.

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